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MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (AFP) — Hizboilah guerrilias shelled MARJAYOUN, Leganon (APr) — reasonan guerritas sneuco an Israeli army position in southern Lebanon on Saturday without causing casualties, security officials said. The attack targetted a position between Markaba and Tallussa in the western sector of Israel's self-declared "security zone," they said. "There were no real casualties but a soldier fainted and was evacuated to Israel by chopper," one official said. The reasons for his passing out were not immediately clear. The Iranian-backed Hizbollah claimed not immediately clear. The Iranian-backed Hizbollah claimed responsibility for the afternoon attack in a statement released in Beirut. Hizbollah guerrillas observed Israeli soldiers assembling at Markaba and defence units opened fire at them, starting fires and causing casualties, the statement said. It said an Israeli chopper was seen evacuating soldiers. Earlier the group's political leader in southern Lebanon, Hassan Huballah, pledged to wipe out Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia after claiming attacks on Thursday in the occupied zone which killed nine militiamen.



Energy experts to discuss grid link

AMMAN (J.T.) — Energy officials and experts from Jordan, Egypt, Palestine and Israel are due to meet in Aqaba Dec. 12-13 to discuss linking the national grids in the four countries. Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Mohammad Arafeh said that feasibility studies were prepared by German and Austrian consultants with funding from the European Union. He said that delegates representing the European Union, the European Investment Bank and the United States are taking part in the meeting. Meanwhile, a Jordanian delegation of 22 travel and tourist agents and hotel owners in Aqaba city Sunday leave for the Israeli city of Eilat to discuss with their Israeli counterparts future cooperation and coordination in their respective fields of work.

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Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Majali: No return to past, no justification for Palestinian suspicions

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The prime minister, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, said yesterday that Jordan had no intention of returning Jordanian-Palestinian relations to what they were before 1967, and there was no justification for Palestinian suspicions that the Kingdom was standing in the way of Palestinian selfdetermination and statehood. In a keynote address to the seminar on the "Future Jordanian-Palestinian Relations" yesterday, the prime minister said there were crucial outstanding issues that Jordan and the Palestine National Authority (PNA) had to settle between them

right away. On the top of these, Dr. Majali said, are the issues of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons, which have to be dealt with before negotiations on the final status begin with Israel.

Economic coordination is another important topic that has to be dealt with, the prime minister said in the address, which was read on his behalf by Senator Kamel Abu Jaber. The new regional order, security, and coordination in the sectoral and employment fields are also topics of common concern that have to be discussed and agreed upon, Dr. Majali added.

As far as Jerusalem was concerned, the prime minister said, Jordan had told the Organisation of Islamic Conright to debate the guardianship of Islamic shrines in that holy city at its forthcom-

Jordan,

U.S. to

finalise

treaty

extradition

AMMAN (AP) - Jordan

and the United States,

apparently inspired by a

recent murder case involv-

ing a U.S. citizen of Jorda-

nian extraction, plan to

finalise an extradition trea-

ty, a cabinet official said Saturday.

Minister of Justice

Hisham Tal told the

Associated Press that

Adeeb Jalamdeh and Mas-

hhour Kookh, judges at the

court of appeal, left for

Washington Saturday to

"finalise a draft of an ex-

tradition treaty between

the governments of the two

A senior U.S. judicial

team was in Jordan two

weeks ago for discussions

Mr. Tal said he expected

the treaty to be signed in

But he declined to say if

the treaty was prompted by

the recent saga of Moham-

mad Abequa, who confes-sed to killing his 40-year-old wife, Nihal, at her Parsippany-Troy Hills,

New Jersey, apartment on

Mr. Abequa, 46, fled to

Jordan with his two chil-

dren - Lisa, 6, and Sami, 3

- shortly after killing his

wife and stayed with his

family until Jordanian

police arrested him July 20.

He remains in jail pending

Officials have said the

government would not re-

spond to American calls for

his extradition because of

His two children re-

turned home with their

maternal aunt, Nesime

the lack of a treaty with the United States.

Dokur, in August.

trial in the Kingdom.

countries."

on the draft.

January.

July 4.

ing summit meeting.
"With all due respect, this issue does not belong to the OIC summit (...) and admi-nistering the holy shrines in East Jerusalem is not negotiable," the prime minister

The 51 members of the OIC are due to open a twoday summit on Tuesday in Casablanca, Morocco, at which various issues affecting Muslims will be discussed.

Dr. Majali repeated Jordan's commitment to managing the Muslim holy sites until the Palestinian authority has spread to the terri-He hoped a meeting be-

tween PLO leader for the territories Faisal Husseini and Crown Prince Hassan last week had "settled this issue once and for all." Mr. Husseini said after the

meeting that Jordan should stay in control of the sites until the city passes into the hands of the Palestinian authority. "The Jordanians are the

trustees of the religious sites

and we do not want to make any changes at this stage until the Palestinian authority spreads to Jerusalem," he said. A row had broken out in

July when Israel recognised Jordan's historic role in protecting the sites in the Washington Declaration signed between the two coun-But PLO leader Yasser

Arafat, who had condemned Israel for the clause in the treaty, was appeased when Jordan said it would hand over control of the sites once talks on the city's final status due to start in 1996 were

Following are major excerpts from the prime minister's speech (Story on seminar on page 12).

The primary question for the future is why we should start by defining the framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. There are many aspects that make this eventuality the best solution, and we may agree to that. But at this point, the Palestinian National Authority is still seeking Palestinian rights over Palestinian land, including sovereignty. If we concentrate more on the Cairo declaration and agreements, much of these accords and procedures are still in need of developing before the Palestinian authority achieves its full institutional structure. Therefore, the main concentration should aim at completing this objective first. To my understanding, the confederation means a centralised leadership for two governments, flags, and national anthem, and by which each party administers its own internal affairs. Until now, this simplified structure of the confederation lacks one of the basic elements, the Palestinian sovereignty over its land, in order to complete the executive, legislative, and judicial structures. It is preinature therefore to consider a confederation. And most important, the Palestinian people should have their say on this matter away from any economic, political, or psychological pressure. From previous experience in the Arab World, we have learned

(Continued on page 7)

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, yesterday chairs a meeting of committees entrusted with negotiations with the Israeli side (Petra photo)

Regent urges constructive opposition

AMMAN (Petra) - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Saturday that the basic challenge facing Jordan was ensuring due respect for the establishment and working

towards enhancing it. Addressing a meeting of heads of committees involved in negotiations with Israel on the implementation of the agreements provided for in the peace treaty, the Regent said that in dealing with issues of national interest politicians should transcend isolated personal views and opt for an objective and comprehensive view of the various national issues.

We ought to shoulder our Itili responsibilities towards the nation and we have to relay to the public clear rather than conflicting messages, said Prince Hassan. He emphasised that genuine lasting one and that Jordan is at the meeting.

opposition should emanate from within state institutions rather than from individuals

acting on their own. The Regent urged the committees members to have the initiative in their negotiations with their Israeli counterparts and not to remain only a mere recepient of the other side's initiatives.

Stressing that the govern-ment would back the negotiators in every respect, the Regent said that the committees ought to give due attention to promoting Jordan's views and ideas regarding regional cooperation.

The Regent also stressed the need for the negotiators and the committees to give e attention to the Jordan Palestinian relationship and its pan-Arab dimension.

He said that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is a

committed to extending all support for the Palestinians. Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, who attended the meeting, lauded efforts by His Majesty King Hussein and Prince Hassan in serving national causes, noting that by signing the peace treaty

national interests. He called on the media to verify its reports and to place Jordan's interests above all other considerations.

Jordan sought no price but rather the safeguarding of

Lower House of Parliament Speaker Saad Hayel Srour voiced the House's appreciation of the Regent's endeavours and constant service to the nation.

Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, several Cabinet ministers and members of the Senate and some deputies were present

military officers would hold a that broke off 10 months ago. meeting in Washington, to be He had previously indiannounced soon by the Uncated that the resumption of ited States. direct talks between the two The U.S. State Departparties would mark a signifiment confirmed it was to set up the meetings which cant new development in the 'should pave the way to a

peace process that he is directly mediating. But on Saturday, he said nothing dramatically new has

six-day war.

The resumption of talks

to an announcement Friday by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa that the two countries would meet in Washington,

essence readiness to start exchange of views, not negotiations," Mr. Rabin said from Oslo.

nothing." he added, two hours before he was due to receive the Nobel Peace Prize which he shares with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO Chief Yasser Arafat.

Israel to resume talks MIAMI (Agencies) — U.S. not all that we wanted," he Secretary of State Warren said. "If they are ready to said. "If they are ready to negotiate one of the most

resumption of the bilateral

negotiations," suspended since the February 25 mas-

sacre of 29 Muslims by a

Jewish settler in a Hebron

Mr. Sharaa insisted the

talks would be a "public ex-

change of views and not sec-

ret negotiations," which Mr.

Rabin has repeatedly urged

in order to break the dead-

lock between the two coun-

The main stumbling block

is the scale and timetable of

an Israeli withdrawal from

the Golan Heights, which it

seized from Syria in the 1967

Arab-Israeli war and later

Meanwhile the European

Union's ambassador to Syria,

Alan Wadams, said Damas-

cus could join negotiations to

the multilateral track of the

peace process by mid-1995 if

it makes progress with Israel.

mosque.

annexed.

Christopher said Saturday important issues — that is to that Israel and Syria would say security arrangements be-tween experts — I look at it resume direct talks in Washington on making in a positive way." Mr. Sharaa said from

Christopher: Syria,

Posing for photographers with Mexican Foreign Minister Jose Angel Gurria, Mr. Beirut Friday that Syrian and Israeli ambassadors dele-Christopher gave no date for the resumption of direct talks gates to bilateral talks and

happened. "The parties are extremely serious about this. Nothing that has happened in the Middle East has caused them to lose seriousness. Indeed it has deepened their commitment to the process."

The secretary of state has iust returned from a Middle East trip and was trying to forge an agreement between Israel and Syria that centres on the return of the Golan Heights to Syria which were seized by Israel in the 1967

was described by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as "better than nothing."
Mr. Rabin was responding

The announcement was "in

"I believe it's better than

Mr. Wadams, quoted by the Arabic daily Al Hayat, said the EU asked Mr. Sharaa last month to take part in the talks, which Syria has boycotted since their launch in January 1992.

Mr. Sharaa replied that it would take part if Israel pledged to withdraw totally from the Golan, and the two sides could make "substantial progress" in their bilateral

collect Nobel prize

the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize on Saturday in recognition of

their historic self-rule deal. humility for his greatest moment of glory on the world stage, bowed several times after receiving the award. But he broke into smiles

when Foreign Minister Peres and Prime Minister Rabin, with whom he shook hands several times, followed him order.

monstrators from disrupting the event.

ceived the diplomas and medals from the chairman of the Nobel committee, Francis Seiersted, amid the marble and frescoes of Oslo's town hall before an invited audience of 1,000 people, including King Harald V of Norway.

million kroner (\$950,000)

Mr. Arafat urged Israel in his acceptance speech to speed up the peace process with an army redeployment on the occupied West Bank

nian leader said as he collected the world's most prestigious peace prize being shared by three people for the first time.

er to abandon the Middle East peace process despite tlement.

the killings aimed at wrecking the search for an overall set-

despite fanatic and cruel enemies of peace," he said. The autonomy deal, signed in September 1993 after secret talks in the Norwegian

> and Jericho in May. But the next phase has been stalled by Israeli fears of attacks on Jewish settlements in the West Bank by Muslim opponents of the peace pro-

> Mr. Peres, 71, one of the architects of the autonomy deal, outlined his vision of a new Israel living in harmony rather than conflict in a Middle East of cooperation and

dialogue with peace as the "no-choice option." In reply to critics of the award as Israeli-Palestinian violence continues, Mr. Sejersted said that "our laureates have not only shown that a road to reconciliation can

be found, but also very bravely taken several steps down that road." Policemen on horseback and anti-riot units with does

kept at bay small groups of Jewish demonstrators on the route to the town hall, on a square which was cordoned A group of around 30

Israeli settlers on the streets shouted "Arafat, terrorist" and brandished placards which said, "It's not peace. It's terror." As the laureates' motor-

cades passed by, one demonstrator rushed out into the middle of the street but was swiftly shoved out of the way by a white-helmeted police-

"I have come to watch every year, since I was a small child, but I've never seen anything like this," said a student, Ragnhild Helg-

harmony with the helicopter over our heads and all these police on the streets," said fellow onlooker Olav Mystuen, a 51-year-old teacher.

EU: Regional cooperation

By Cathy King Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - The four regional parties, Jordan, the Palestinians, Egypt and Israel, need to create a minimum framework within which to cooperate, a European Commission (EC) official said Saturday.

The EU (European Union) is striving very hard to get the four regional parties to create a minimum struc-ture," director of the Mediterranean, Near and Middle East at the European Commission's directorate general for external economic relations Eberhard Rhein

said at a press briefing. Dr. Rhein added that there was already an agreement toset up four committees consisting of ministry officials and some private sector representatives to consider the

regional infrastructure. Under this banner falls tourism, the establishment of a Middle East development bank and a secretariat.

Cooperation within tourism would include provision of training facilities, a publicity programme and joint tour

A Middle East development bank would aim to enhance trade exchange between the four parties, currently at five per cent, while a secretariat, which in the past was run from Brussels, is to be set up in either Cairo or Amman and should be operational by Jan. 1, 1995 and would include a member from each of the four and one Briton, Dr. Rhein said.

European awareness of the Mideast region has changed in recent years resulting in increased financial assistance, he said.

The EU was never more directly involved in the Mashraq than in the last two years," Dr. Rhein said. In Jordan, he said, the EU had two projects, one of a structural type relating to the

balance of payments and the other to finance surveys and The surveys and studies, he experts.

requires minimum structure explained, include feasibility

and cost of dam and desahination plant construction, regional development of the Gulf of Agaba, such as connecting airports, ports and industry, and also linkage of

electricity grids.

"Jordanian links with the EU are part of an overall strategy or design for connecting the countries of the region to one another and with Europe," Dr. Rhein said, adding that part of the EU's effort has been to earmark ECU 5.5 billion worth of grants over the next five years with the same amount

to be awarded in loans. Dr. Rhein enthused about the EU Med Partenariat meeting in Cairo (Dec. 6-8), describing it as a great success where 10,000 individual businessmen participated in meetings to discuss imports, exports and joint ventures in

highly specialised workshops. He said that Partenariats focused upon small to medium entrepreneurs operating in specific fields, thus complementing the larger economic conferences like that held in Casablanca (Oct. 30-Nov. 1).

The Casablanca conference, Dr. Rhein added, drew the attention of the investment and banking community to the region which was threatened with being marginalised" as a consequence of conflicts and instability and where there is "not enough direct private invest-

But he criticised the conference saying that it "juggled private and public sec-tor" and said he hoped that the planned follow up conference to be held in Amman next year would be "left to the private sector."

Over the next few days a two-day workshop is to be held in Aqaba led by the head of the EU-Mediterranean projects division Christian Falkowski (see

story on top). Mr. Falkowski said that it will be attended by 25-30

Jordan urges OIC to seek end to Bosnia embargo

CASABLANCA (Agencies) Muslim foreign ministers met on Saturday to draw up an agenda for next week's Islamic summit which is expected to call for an end to the arms embargo on Bosnia and set up an emergency fund

for Bosnia's Muslims. "Concerning Bosnia, Jordan will ask the summit to urge the world community to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia and hold an international conference on the issue," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan told

Reuters. He spoke before foreign ministers of the Jeddah-based Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) started a session to prepare for the Dec. 13-14 summit in Casab-

lanca, Morocco. Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Jerusalem would also be high on the agenda of the OIC's seventh summit.

"We expect the summit to take serious decisions on many issues especially on Al Quds (Jerusalem) and the (Israeli-occupied) territories. We expect the summit to stand firm on the rights of the Palestinians and that Al Quds Asharif will remain the capital of Palestine," he told Reu-

"We expect also from the summit to take a decision in the direction of lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia and establishing a fund of emergency to assist Bosnia in its defence requirements. Mr. Zarif added.

OIC Secretary-General Hamid Al Gabid urged the foreign ministers' meeting to study the 52-point agenda and "seize the opportunity to better revitalise the concept of Islamic solidarity," in dealing with the issues at stake. ... Our insistent demand for a just and comprehensive

peace in the Middle East, in

Bosnia-Herzegovina and in

Kashmir, our search for

peace in Afghanistan and Somalia, the struggle of the people of the African Sahel against natural disasters ... in short none of our actions, no matter how just and legitimate they are, will be crowned with success without our Islamic solidarity," Mr.

Gabid said. Iran also wanted the summit to deal with what Mr. Zarif called the "Western campaign against Islam and discuss all kinds of cultural attacks against our religion," an apparent reference to the French ban on the wearing of

scarves by Muslim students. OIC delegates arriving for the summit have called on the organisation, which will celebrate its 25th anniversary in Casablanca next week, to redefine its role in a new world order and present the more tolerant face of Islam to a Western world shocked by

The crisis of Muslims in Bosnia, under siege by Bosnian Serbs and faced with the possible threat of a withdrawal of U.N. peacekeepers, has provided the OIC's 51 member states with the opportunity to speak with one voice. Bosnia's foreign minister is

extremist violence.

attending the summit and the OIC leaders were expected to renew an offer to send in more Muslim peacekeepers if the Western powers withdrew their troops with the United Nations Protection Forces (UNPROFOR) in "Bosnia is the most impor-

tant issue in this summit. It is our duty to come up with a concrete decision." Afghan Foreign Minister Najibullah Lafrae told Reuters. He added: "The Muslim

formula for the future and set up an agenda for the 21st Afghanistan and the fight-

ing between rival factions

world is passing a critical crisis ... it is time to get together and design a new

there is another of the major issues slated for discussion as is the civil war in Somalia, the violence in Kashmir and the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

"Islam ... is a message of peace and tolerance addressed to the entire universe,' Mr. Al Gabid told the ministers seated in a tent outside a luxury hotel. "Now, however ... our

Islamic world has fallen prey

to all kinds of conflicts, not-

ably in Palestine, Afghanis-

tan, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia," he said in a prepared speech given to the press. These troubles were a result of "foreign aggression or deadly confrontations among national factions," he said.

stop the export of fundamentalist violence. It calls for the OIC members to refuse to finance or support "terrorist acts" and to make sure their territory is not used by violent groups to

The ministers are to review

an unprecedented plan to

plan or carry out attacks. The draft calls on them "not to host, train, arm, finance or provide facilities" for violent groups, according to a copy of the document. The plan was developed by

Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia and

Turkey, who have all seen a

sharp increase in the threat from fundamentalism since the last OIC summit was held in Senegal in December 1991. The proposal however dis-tinguished between "terrorist groups" and peoples who had the right to struggle for their

OIC members will also be asked to back a call for an international conference on terrorism, to be sponsored by the United Nations. Egyptian President Hosni

Mubarak, who is scheduled to attend the summit on Tuesday and Wednesday. called Saturday on the OIC to fight Islamic militancy.

"It's a good move, but it's Arafat, Rabin, Peres

OSLO (AFP) -- PLO leader toll of murderous terrorism, Yasser Arafat and his former Israeli foes, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, collected

capital, was launched in Gaza Mr. Arafat, in a gesture of

to the rostrum in alphabetical In contrast to the applause during the two-hour ceremony around 100 policemen and women were out on the streets to prevent Jewish de-

The three laureates re-

They also share the seven-

and elections for a Palestinian autonomy council. "I call upon my partners in peace to reinforce the peace process with a more comprehensive and strategic vision and accelerate the peace process," the 65-year-old Palesti-

Mr. Rabin, 72, vowed nev-

"We are determined to do the job well - despite the

"It's supposed to be a peace thing but this is bad

Japan Japanen and a state of the same of the :0w.)::ea

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Arab League urges OIC summit | to take action on Bosnia, Libya

CAIRO (AFP) — The Arab League Friday urged Muslim leaders at the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) summit in Morocco to take action to help Bosnian Muslims and Libya.

Adnan Omran, deputy secretary general of the Arab League, said the OIC must "assume its responsibilities faced with the massacre of the Muslim people in Bosnia. "After the failure of the

European Union and the United Nations to contain the conflict, Islamic states must act to help the Bosnian people and must not stop at simply making speeches." he

Omran was speaking be-fore he set off for the Moroccan city of Casablanca, where the two-day OIC summit opens Tuesday.

He said representatives from the OIC's 51 members would also discuss the "insui just" international sanctions on Libya in April 1992.

The U.N. Security Council imposed an air and arms embargo to force Libva to hand over to Britain or the United States two suspects in the December 1988 airliner bombing over Lockerbie. Scotland, that killed 270 peo-

Sanctions were broadened in 1993 to a freeze on some Libyan assets abroad and a

BEIRUT (R) — A group of intellectuals said on Saturday

Lebanon was becoming a

land of degenerating politics

and "get-rich-quick business.

Lebanon needed a new

political class dedicated to

serving the public interest,

they said in a public appeal.

culation is to be condemned

Calling for an investigation

into a widening series of scan-

dals, they said corruption

must be eliminated by raising

political standards to consoli-

tha journalists, artists and profes-

ant sionals said political life was

Ko suffering a distressing de-

tor the rebuilding of democracy Sel after the 1975-90 war.

terioration that threatened

date democracy.

3110

The group of

business, bribery and spe-

TC as much as the reign of (civil

ser war) militias, drugs and rack-

as ets," the 55 intellectuals said.

"The rule of get-rich-quick

bribery and speculation."

Lebanese intellectuals

slam corrupt politicians

equipment.
Omran also condemned Israel's insistance that Jerusalem was its eternal and undivided capital, and said the Holy City was "Arab territory, the eternal capital of the Palestinians.

The dispute over Jerusalem and the Arab-Israeli peace process would also be discussed at Casablanca, he

He urged Muslim states to "adopt a position on the con-tinuation of Israel's nuclear armament, which is a large obstacle on the path to peace" in the Middle East, and to refuse to sign an extension to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty until Israel signs the accord.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa also left Cairo Friday to attend a meeting of OIC foreign ministers the following day.

The Foreign Ministry said it was not yet decided whether President Hosni Muharak would attend the

> Iraq urges OIC to break embargo

In Baghdad meanwhile. Iraq Saturday urged the OIC to break the international sanctions imposed more than four years ago and which ban on some oil-related have crippled its economy.

that corruption charges were

being lodged by people with mafia-like links to those they

"Are not those who de-

A senior Iraqi official called on the OIC two-day summit "not to be satisfied with a resolution calling for the sanctions to be lifted."

Saad Kassem Hammudi, a member of the foreign affairs commission in the ruling Baath Party, told the daily Babel: "We have to start immediately and break the economic embargo, unfreeze Iraqi assets and cooperate fully with Baghdad in all spheres.

Babel is run by Uday Hussein, son of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The U.N. Security Council imposed sanctions on Iraq when it invaded neighbouring Kuwait in August 1990, and several countries have frozen Iraqi assets within their terri-

In November, the U.N. renewed the sanctions even though Iraq formally recognised the sovereignty and borders of Kuwait, one of the key U.N. demands for lifting the embargo.

Iraq Vice-President Tareq Aziz announced earlier this month that Baghdad would take part in the Casablanca summit of the 51-member OIC, but there has been no information on the make-up of the Iraqi delegation.

Baghdad boycotted the last summit in December 1991 less than a year after the Gulf

Cold leaves **Iranians** without

heating nounce scandals today the same who covered them up TEHRAN (AFP) - Hunyesterday?" the appeal said. dreds of homes have been without gas and heating for A parliamentary deputy several days in northern Tehran as distributors strugcharged with drug dealing shook the political establishment last month by linking a gled to meet a rush in deson of President Elias Hrawi, mand caused by a sudden

unnamed deputies, an unnamed minister, a prominent Temperatures have plumbusinessman and 10 airline meted to below zero in the pilots with drugs. past week creating a huge demand for gas. Another deputy said mem-The Iranian gas company,

bers of the previous parliahas urged the population to ment and politicians were "economise on gas to allow bribed to pass a 1991 law everyone to get a supply." setting up the Solidere company that is rebuilding houses are heated with gas Beirut. which has been swiftly de-

He named two aides of Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri, mastermind of the Solidere project, as alleged distributors of bribes.



OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger advised Israeli leaders receiving the Nobel Peace Prize Saturday to be cautious in talks with Syria and the Palestinians.

Dr. Kissinger, himself a 1973 Nobel Peace Prize laureate for efforts to end the Vietnam War, said in an interview on Israel Radio that he was uneasy with the decision to also award the prize to PLO Chairman Yasser Ara-

"I would have felt more comfortable if it had been given after a long enough period to see that he had really changed and his prize will be justified," Dr. Kissinger said.

The Nobel committee was criticised by some who still see Arafat as a terrorist and led to the resignation of committee member Kare Kristiansen, who was in Israel Saturday to be honoured by a right-wing group.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who received the Nobel along with Mr. Arafat in Oslo Saturday, should pursue talks with caution and discipline," Dr. Kissinger said. Israel and the PLO are

negotiating expanding the seven-month Gaza-Jericho autonomy to the West Bank. But after a wave of Islamic attacks on Israelis and recent clashes between fundamentalists and PLO troops in Gaza, there are calls to reconsider Israel's commitment to withdraw troops from West Bank towns before planned Palestinian elec-

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres (right) attending dinner together in Oslo's Grand

"Arafat has an obligation to make sure these events in Gaza are brought under control because they cannot possibly be repeated on the West Bank," Dr. Kissinger

"My view would be to do (the West Bank redeployment) one step at a time and to try it out in one town first and see what happens... It's too dangerous to do it on a general basis. Israel cannot commit suicide for the sake of clauses in an agreement," he said.

Dr. Kissinger, who as

with caution, says Kissinger secretary of state brokered a separation of forces agree-

ment between Israel and

Syria in the 1970s, said he

didn't believe there was any

point in intensifying the cur-

rent U.S. mediation of

Israeli-Syrian peace talks. "I don't see the conditions for it now," Dr. Kissinger said.

Asked whether Israel should meet Syria's demand of a total withdrawal from the strategic Golan Heights which it captured in 1967. Dr. Kissinger said only: "I would not make an agreement that depends entirely on an assumption of permanent good will."

Kuwait to sign GCC pact

KUWAIT (R) - Kuwait said Saturday it planned to join soon a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) security pact signed by the four other members of the six-nation organisation.

The interior minister (Sheikh Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah) affirmed Kuwait's commitment to the security pact and its keenness to implement its clauses," an official statement said.

Sheikh Ali noted that one clause in the pact, which aims to coordinate measures against crime, required more could go ahead at the "soonest opportunity." said a statement.

Kuwait did not join the security pact when it was ratified by Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab

Emirates and Oman during a GCC interior ministers' meeting in Riyadh last month.
GCC member Qatar

boycotted that meeting to protest against what it said were incidents along its border with Saudi Arabia. At the time, Sheikh Ali

told reporters Kuwait did not sign the part because of "legislative" issues.

A Kuwaiti official in

November said Kuwait could not join the pact due to contradictions with the Emirate's constitution.

He said the nact which have not been published, obliges members to extradite suspects. Kuwait's constitution states that: "No Kuwaiti may be deported from Kuwait or prevented from returning thereto."

could be brought down if

warring factions continued to

let supplies flow into the city.

and make convoys a regular

feature of life in Kabul, the

price of these commodities

will come down, the economy

will improve and everyone

Opposition leader Gulbud-

din Hekmatvar's forces have

blocked roads to Kabul for

much of this year in a power

struggle with his arch-foe,

President Burhanuddin Rab-

be opened and a permanent

ceasefire announced." Mr.

Hekmatyar told Reuters last

"We want all the roads to

will benefit," he said.

"If we can open the roads

Oslo brokers reunite

OSLO. Norway (AP) — At a back table in the Palm Garden bar, the old friends of "the Oslo channel" swapped laughs and tales late Friday about their secret talks on

Middle East peace. The Norwegian, Palestinian and Israeli merchants of peace were back for a welldeserved reward: Watching Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres and Yasser Arafat receive the Nobel Peace Prize on Satur-

Without the efforts of the tightknit team gathered at the bar in Oslo's Grand Hotel, there might never have been a peace accord to honour.

Those at the reunion included Terje Roed Larsen and his wife Mona Juul, two Norwegians who spotted the chance to open a back-door channel between bitter enemies - Israel and the PLO — while on a trip in the Gaza

With them, smiling, re-laxed and joking, was Yossi Beilin, the Israeli deputy foreign minister who helped open the channel.

"This year this is front channel, the back channel is over there." Mr. Beilin said, with the secretive team for once within earshot of journalists.

There was Israeli negotiator Uri Savir and the PLO's Ahmad Oureia, usually called Abu Ala, who both stole in and out of Norway sensus."

secret meetings that led be the agreement on Palestinian self-rule, signed in September 1993

Although there is much work left on the accord, and an much blood has been since it was signed, the peowere in high spirits when they met agam.

"We didn't believe a year ago that it would be possible to implement the agreement in the way it was imthe problems, the violence but we couldn't believe that such a day could come so soon that the whole world would acknowledge the itsportance," said Mr. Beilin.

Abu Ala said teasingly three things that were best about his many treks to Oslor 'Nice food, the great Mona and the less great Terje."

Mr. Larsen, now U.N. undersecretary for the Middie East, said Mr. Arafatoften made a similar observa-

"The chairman always says there are two Larsens: The ugly one - that is me - and the beautiful one - that is Mona," Mr. Larsen, 47, said about his attractive 34-yearold wife, now a diplomat stationed in the Middle East.

"On this," joked Israeli negotiator Savir, "There is Palestinian and Israeli con-

Arafat's ex-wife emerges, wants to return to him

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The day after Yasser Arafat's wife announced they were expecting a baby, an Israeli newspaper on Friday published a lengthy interview with a woman who claimed to be his first wife.

"I am the only one who really understood him. I knew what angered him and what made him happy, what was food for him and how to relax him. I understood him completely," Najla Yassin, was quoted as telling the daily Haaretz.

Ms. Yassin, known as Um-Nasser, managed his Tums office and said she and Mr. Arafat lived together for 18 years until 1985. The couple had no

Interviewed in an opulent villa in Tunis, Ms. Yassin her and Mr. Arafat, including one of them cutting what appears to be a wedding cake. The 65ish, heavily ieweled woman often burst into tears during the exclusive interview with Haaretz reporter Suha Gharaf.

Born in Syria to a Lebanese family, she was one of the first women to join Fatch, the mainstream PLO organisation. She said she later divorced her Palestinian husband to be with Mr. Arafat, known by his guerrilla name Abu Ammar, in 1967.

"We lived together for many years. He took care of me and loved me very much," Ms. Yassin said. "He was a good man, a sensitive and gentle man."

"When I saw that he was anxious or tired I would go out to the streets and find a Palestinian child and tell him, 'Go to Abu Ammar, he wants to give you a Klashnikov (rifle) so you can fight the Jews'," she said. "The child would go in and

ask Abu Ammar for a Klashnikov. He would immediately forget all of his troubles, smile, kiss the child and say 'do you see these? They are our hope'," Ms. Yassin said, Mr. Arafat, 65, had been given to explaining his bachelorhood over the years by



Suha Arafat

saving he was "married to a . woman called Palestine." But there have been rumours for i years that Mr. Arafat had ... promised marriage to a num-

ber of women. Mr. Arafat's 1991 marriage to Suha, his 31-year-old present wife, was kept secret for

Unnamed PLO officials * confirmed to Haaretz that I Mr. Arafat had indeed been married before and it was

Ms. Yassin. However, in Gaza City, Mr. Arafat's office Fricay denied any knowledge of the woman and refused to com-

ment on the report. Mr. Yassin told Haaretz that she is waiting for Mr. Arafat to call her to Gaza and that she has been ordered to stay away until he does. Asked why she doesn't go ahead without a summons, she said:

"I can't just do it. He would get very angry." Shortly after the interview Ms. Yassin left Tunis for good and moved to Egypt. In a subsequent telephone interview 10 days after the first, Ms. Yassin emphatically denied she had ever married

Mr. Arafat and asked to retract the story. A senior unnamed PLO official in Tunis told Haaretz that Mr. Arafat had bestowed great wealth upon Ms. Yassin but had ultimately left

"The jewels that she has are enough to build all Gaza anew. Arafat banished her, but she still dreams of returning to him. In my opinion she doesn't have a chance," the official was quoted as saving.

They expressed concern Relief convoys give ray of hope to embattled

KABUL (R) — Three relief str convoys have reached be-205 sieged Kabul this month, proula viding a small ray of hope for ne the people of the Afghan capital struggling to survive ca cold, hunger and random

_rockets. Two U.N. convoys brought 1,500 tonnes of flour, as well as medical and shelter supplies last week, while the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) trucked in medical goods.

"It's a drop in the bucket," said Martin Barber, who coordinates U.N. humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. "If we could do 1,500 tonnes of food a week, it would make a big difference in getting the people of Kabul through the winter."

Factional battles have killed about 15,000 people in Kabul since the communist government fell to Islamic guerrillas in April 1992. #Thousands more have been

wounded or forced from their homes by fighting that has wrecked entire neighbour-

"We came here in January after our homes in the old city were destroyed," said Khair Mohammad, speaking for 30 families living cheek by jowl in a small concrete mosque in the government-held northwestern district of Khair

"The foreign agencies helped us a bit at first, but not now," said the former carpet dealer. "Our women go to the city to beg. Lots of us have borrowed money from shopkeepers."

The 400 people in the unheated Khawaja Abdullah Ansari Mosque are living three or four families to a room, crudely partitioned with sacking and cloth hung from ropes.

"We have even sold the blankets given us by a foreign

veloped as a source of energy

by the Iranian authorities
The northern residential

areas of the capital have been

the worst hit.

courtyard outside as their pathe neighbourhood.

"Local people come here and threaten to bring the police to evict us. They say

point three months ago for alternative accommodation in a school.

women and children to stay

"They say they will not come to the mosque as long

these people are here," he

leave.

we are not good Muslims and our children are disturbing them, but we have nowhere to go," one woman said. Others said 25 families had been forced to leave at gun-

now felt it was improper for

in the mosque. agency because we had no-

thing to eat," said Abdul Shakoor.

Coughing children huddle under piles of bedding on the floor or play in the muddy rents bitterly recount how they are no longer wanted in

The mullah, Maulvi Mohammad Hussein, said local people had helped the displaced families at first but

said. "Now the security people have found another place for them and soon they will

Ariane Curdy, an ICRC nutritionist surveying the needs of Kabul's citizens. said that, apart from displaced people living in public buildings, about two-thirds of 370 families visited in private houses were not living in

their own homes. "The picture is of a town largely depleted of its original residents," she said. Nutrition levels among those in private houses were little better than those in public build-

"We are finding that about two-thirds of the girls are malnourished, compared to one-third of the boys," she said.

"The fact that we couldn't bring in food until now means people have had to sell all their belongings," Curdy

added. "The international community has failed to prevent that."

The United Nations. whose convoys were the organisation's first since June, is using local and international agencies to distribute food and other supplies to those thought most in need, but so far there is just not enough to go round.

At a newly opened bakery supplied by the U.N. World Food Programme in the opposition-controlled village of Bagrami near Kabul, 500 families can buy subsidised bread using coupons.

"We have coupons, but we still can't buy bread because we have no money," complained one of a group of veiled women to visiting U.N. officials.

'We don't have any money and we don't have coupons either." came a retort from the crowd. Barber said food prices

week.

Asked if that meant the blockade was over, he said: "We are serious about a peaceful solution, but it's not the case for the other side. They just want to remain in

FOR THE TRAVELLER

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ)

23:05 Aqaba (RJ) 00:20 Cairo (RJ)

...... Rome (AZ) Doha, Muscat (GF)

Moscow (SU)
Carro (MS) HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN Dep. Amman
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JORDAN TELEVISION Tcl: 773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO

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Featur	e film "God Father" (Pa

PRAYER TIMES

. The Upper Hand

06:20 (Sunrise) Duha 11:28 Dhuhr 14:14

16:37 Maghreh CHURCHES St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifleh, Tel. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624591. Church of the Annunciation Tel.

De la Salle Church Tcl. 661757

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ecta Church Tel: 62236 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541. Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543. nian Catholic Church Tel. 771331. Armenian Orthogo. 775261. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Amman International Church Tel. ingelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824.52. St. German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tcl. 644195
The Latter-Day Saints Tcl. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tcl.675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in

WEATHER

Araman Tel. 811295

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-ment of Meteorology.

Unstable weather conditions will prevail, thus skies will be cloudy with a chance of scattered showers in the northern and eastern parts of the country. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Valley 10 / 20 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 10. Aqaba 17 Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY** AMMAN:

Dr. Jamil Maraqa
Dr. Nidal As'ad
Dr. Khalid Mu'addi
Dr. Ghazi Abdullah

Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	
Nairoukh pharmacy	6,23672
Al Salam pharmacy	
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	63766U
Nairoujh pharmacy	623672
Najih pharmacy	84763€
IRBID:	
Dr. Ali Shoqairi	246140
Alques pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
the Deeth Applich	084474

Khalifch pharmacy 985417 **EMERGENCIES**

d Control Centre 637111

rood Congo Cenae	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police 192, 621111.	637777
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	
Hotel Complaints	6USRDU
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Complaints	
(directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	•
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Radio Jordan Water Authority	AUTHE
Jordan Electricity Authority	
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RJ Flight Information, 0	K-3 <i>52</i> IX

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200 HOSPITALS

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539r)	University Hospital 8458
6 321	Al-Muasher Hospital 66722
5800	The Islamic, Abdali 666127
1176	Al-Ahli. Abdali 66416
7467	Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77710
140/	Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775111
	Army, Marka 891611
7111	Oueen Alia Hospital 602240
	Amai Hospital 674
121	Attital Hospital W77
1230	ZARQA:
	Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)9833
3101	Zarga National Hospital
1101	(09)90(3
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AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

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Zarga National Hospital	
	(04)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	
ION SHE MOSPILE	147)700134
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	(UY)99099
TD B ITO	-

(02)275555

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Oucen Alia In-ternational Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be veri-

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

(Terminal 1)
65:35 Bangkok (R
07:45 Agaba (R 68:35 Jeddah (R
99:06 Damascus (R 99:05 Larnaca (R
89:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (R 10:15 Beirut (R
10:15 Doha, Bahrain (R
17:00 New York, Amsterdam (R 17:55 London (R
18:49 Athens (R 18:45 Madrid (R
19:00 Paris, Geneva (R 19:35 Vienna (R
18:45 Frankfurt (R

Other Flights (Terminal 2) 12:35 Abu Dhubi, Muscat (GF) ----- Moscow (SU) 20:05 Cairo (MS) 22:55 Istanbul (TK) 01:10 Amsterdum (KL) DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) 06:00 Aqaba (RJ) 06:25 Beirut (RJ) 06:30 Frankfurt (RJ) 10:55 Victura (RJ) 11:00 Rome (RJ) 11:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ) 11:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ) 11:50 Athens (RJ) 20:00 Rivait (RJ) Cabbage Carrot CauliflowerRiyadh (R.I) 20:15 Cairo (R.I) New Duthi (RJ) Damascus (RJ) Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) 22:00 Singapore, Jakarta (RJ) Bangkok (RJ) Sanaa (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Home News

Civil Defence Rescue units Saturday evening haul a

metal cutter through the rubble of a building which collapsed in the Nazal suburb of Amman (Photo by

New building collapses

By Rana Husseini

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Civil Defence

Department (CDD) rescue units discontinued their

search Saturday night for two

people who were believed to

have been trapped under rub-

ble after a newly-constructed

building collapsed in Nazal

A CDD official told the

Jordan Times that the two

Egyptian workers who were

feared missing and possibly

trapped under the wreckage

of the five-story apartment

building, appeared at the scene. Both workers were re-

ported not to have been on

the site when the building

collapsed, the official added.

two hours later and said they

were away at the time of the

collapse, but we will continue

to dig in the rubble just in

case someone else was in the building," the CDD official

An eyewitness who lives

near the site said that at

approximately 4:00 p.m., he

saw stones falling from the building, then "all of a sud-

den the building just went

cony at the time of the inci-

dent, and my house started

shaking, accompanied by

loud noises," the witness told

Amman Mayor Mamdouh

WHO global commission

Al Abbadi said that the

building was licensed by the

Royal Highness Princess Bas-

ma Saturday agreed to join

the Global Commission on

Women's Health of the

World Health Organisation

(WHO) for the period 1994-

Princess Basma, in a writ-

ten reply to WHO Director

General Hiroshi Nakajima,

expressed her appreciation to

the organisation for selecting

her to serve on the commit-

tee, stressing that she will do

her utmost to achieve the

The Princess last month

received a letter from Dr.

Nakajima inviting her to

accept membership on the

committee, whose establish-

ment was recommended by

WHO member states at the

45th World Health Assembly

on Women's Health compris-

es prominent personalities

The Global Commission

in 1992.

committee's objectives.

the Jordan Times.

"I was standing on my bal-

"The two men showed up

2 hours after completion

ing codes.

tion (JEA) as meeting build-

it is too early to determine

who is responsible for the

collapse of the structure. He

added that the responsibility

of the engineer in overseeing that building codes are ap-

plied during the construction process lies with the engineer

liminary investigations

showed that the "engineer in charge was not always pre-

sent to supervise the con-

must always be present, since the building is 1,600-metres square," Dr. Abbadi said.

He said it is the responsi-bility of the JEA to investi-

about to enter the building

"The engineer in charge

struction work."

charge of the site. Dr. Abbadi said that pre-

According to Dr. Abbadi.

rs reunite more than a dozen times for weigh meetings that led to

the agreement on Palestinian will-rule, surned in Septem-Villough there is much

work left on the accord, and much blood has been spilled the of the 'Odo change write in high spirit, when they We shell theneve a year

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vife emerges, irn to him



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Mr. Arabat's Discounting to Suha, his lister in not with mastern Consumed Photos : Continued to How this I Mr. As the field more from

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MIJAZ RAILWAY

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MARKLY PRICES

from a broad range of disciplines and experiences, in-. . . cluding political, scientific and professional leaders $\{a_{2,2}, a_{2,2}, \dots, a_{n,n}\}$

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throughout the world. The terms of reference of the commission involve pro-

as Hussein, sustained minor injuries and was taken to Al Bashir Hospital. Construction workers had just finished pouring the ce-Jordan Engineers Associa-

on women's health AMMAN (Petra) — Her ducing an agenda for action Royal Highness Princess Bas- on women's health, acquainting policy makers with women's health issues, advocating the promotion of women's health issues within all development plans and using all forms of mass media

to achieve that end. They also involve providing a forum for consultation and dialogue with women's organisations and women's health advocacy groups.

The commission meets approximately twice a year to provide independent scientific and technical advice on policies and strategies relat-

ing to women's health.
Its next meeting will take place in Australia at the beginning of April, 1995. Princess Basma's selection to the commission's mem-

bership reflects WHO's appreciation of her role in supporting women's causes. With this new appointment Princess Basma now serves

four U.N. assignments. In May 1993, the Princess was appointed as Honorary Human Development Ambassador by the U.N. Development Programme. | tional and request financial

Ministers report on talks with top financial entities

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday heard reports from Minister of Plan-ning Hisham Khatib and Minister of Finance Sami Gammoh on the outcome of their negotiations with the European Union (EU), the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). According to the reports,

the European Union has agreed to give Jordan an im-mediate grant of \$36 million to be transferred to the Jordanian treasury before the end of the year to help Jordan's balance of payments. The grant came as an initial

response from the EU to the efforts and meetings con-ducted lately between EU leaders in Brussels and His Royal Highness Crown The reports said the IMF board has endorsed a \$57° million loan to the Kingdom

in addition to an earlier sum, thus bringing the total of the IMF loan to \$110 million.

This will be a long term, low interest, soft loan and will be available during 1995, according to the reports.

In addition, the World

Bank has approved a low-

interest \$80 million loan to Jordan payable over 20 years. said the reports, which added that the German government has agreed to offer Jordan a \$40 million low interest loan payable over 20 years

through the World Bank. Over and above this, Jor-dan will obtain a \$50 million loan from the German government during this year, the reports added.

Dr. Khatib and Mr. Gam-moh told the Council of Ministers that these soft loans were designed to augment the Kingdom's foreign cur-rency reserves cover the 1995 budget deficit and enable the government to carry out capital projects next year.

Meeting under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime

Minister Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, the Cabinet approved 18 projects which pledge to invest JD80 million in businesses that would create 2,000 jobs. The Cabinet said that the

schemes would be considered certified economic projects which are entitled to benefit from numerous incentives such as exemptions from customs duty on imported



Sami Gammoh

machinery and equipment and exemptions from pay-ment of income tax for the first two years of production.

A Cabinet statement said that the new schemes would manufacture plastic materials, spare parts for machin-ery, containers and bottles for drugs and foodstuffs, aluminium, iron, ready-made garments, underwear, textiles vitamins, dairy products, veterinary drugs and detergents and some would provide medical and hotel management services require-

The Cabinet Saturday also approved the establishment of six enterprises, considered



economic category projects, which are allowed fewer exemptions than certified economic projects.

These businesses would manufacture chocolates, buscuits, cartoon and documentary films, educa-tional materials and textiles. The total funds to be invested are JD4 million; 270 jobs are to be created by these schemes, said the Cabinet statement.

The Council of Ministers endorsed a memorandum of understanding with Germany providing for DM 1.5 million (JD669,000) from the German government to finance the cost of expertise and technical assistance in assessing the Kingdom's various needs in different fields.

The Council of Ministers also agreed to exempt the Military Consumer Corporation from JD7 million in customs duty that would have been collected on the corporation's imports next year.

The Cabinet also approved Jordan's participation in the 12th conference of the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO) due to be held in Tunis between Dec. 17 and 20. The Jordanian delegation to that meeting will be led by Minister of Higher Education Rateb

It also decided to form a Jordanian delegation, led by Interior Minister Salameh Hammad to take part in the Arab League interior ministers' council meeting scheduled to be held in Tunis between Jan. 4 and 6.

It approved Jordan's participation in an international tourism exhibition to be held in Milan, Italy, early next year and the Berlin International Tourism Fair in March the two exhibitions will be led by Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan.

According to the Cabinet, Judge Adib Jalamdeh, the prosecutor general, and Judge Mashour Kouj, mem-ber of the Court of Appeals, will be sent to the United States to discuss an agreement on the extradition of crime suspects between Jordan and the United States. No date was given for their

The Council of Ministers delegated the secretary general of the Ministry of Planning to travel to Paris to negotiate a financial protocol for 1994 with the French government. The secretary general was authorised to sign the protocol.

The Cabinet also approved Jordan's participation in the general assembly meeting of the Federation of Arab News Agencies to be held in Beirut on Dec. 14 and 15. Jordan will be represented at the next meeting by Abdullah Etoum, director general of the Jordan News Agency,

Enumerators start 1994 census 125,000 families to be visited daily

By Amy Henderson Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN — Eight thousand enumerators commenced with a houseto-house survey of the Kingdom yesterday, thus initiating Jordan's fourth

national census. gate the incident to deter-The Jordan News Agenmine where the culpability cy, Petra, quoted Assistant Director General of the Earlier reports indicated Department of Statistics that there were two people in Ismail Abu Sondos as the building at the time of the saying that the researchers will visit approximately 125,000 families daily out of an estimated 625,000 According to CDD Director Lieutenant General Afif Ghoul, the guard, who was

families in Jordan.

the night that residents

were supposed to have re-

corded the number of peo-

ple sleeping in their homes.

According to a statistics

department official, the

census will count foreigners

living in Jordan as well as

By a Jordan Times

Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian

branch of Amnesty Interna-

Tawfiq Abu Baker, Jordan

Addressing a press confer-

ence Saturday, Mr. Abu Bak-

er said that about 12 human

rights specialists from Jorda-

nian universities are expected

to address the workshop,

which is expected to formu-

late a related set of recom-

set of recommendations we

intend to submit a plan for

the introduction of the hu-

man rights courses into the

curricula to the Norwegian

branch of Amnesty Interna-

"Once we have reached a

mendations.

AI secretary general.

when it collapsed, informed Last night, enumerators visited group families authorities that there were two men trapped inside.
The guard, identified only (those staying in hotels, hospitals or homes for the disabled) and also surveyed those entering the Kingdom at the airport. All visitors who arrived in Jordan before midnight Saturday were registered in the census. Last night was also

ment mixture for the roof top of the building, the witness said. He said that two hours later, the building fell. **Princess Basma to serve on** Jordanians living abroad for less than a year (for example, those travelling or studying abroad or those travelling on business).
Although plans for the

census have been under way since 1991, some have criticised the census as being politically motivated given the recent political developments in Jordan.

Critics say that the census seeks to define the number of refugees in the Kingdom in order to seek compensation in the peace talks, or may determine the number of Jordanian citizens of Palestinian origin -- a controversial issue that has been generally avoided since the signing of the peace treaty with

But according to Abdullah Abdel Aziz Zoubi, executive director of the 1994 census, the stoly iobjective. of the census is to establish the number of inhabitants in each governorate so as to facilitate policy-making and planning.

"It is only natural that the government should want such statistics," he said. "The government has

on preparing human rights courses

Abu Baker.

plement the plan," said Mr.

known to have helped other

The Norwegian branch is

to study migration trends, which is important in a place like Jordan where the population has increased significantly over short periods of time."

Jordan, in fact, has one of the highest population growth rates in the world, much of which is a result of an influx of refugees and displaced persons during the last five decades.

The Kingdom's last national census was in 1979, showing a population of nearly 2,150,000. Today, however, the population is estimated at just over 4 million — ten per cent of which are figured to be returnees from the Gulf states following the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

Information and results of the census will be valuable to several ministries; education; labour, plan-ning, social development and others. The census will also help

planners and sociologists study fertility and mortality rates by governorate, as well as other demographic information such as the status of handicapped and disabled people. Amnesty branch to hold workshop

"We have approached Par-

liament members urging

them to act towards

ensuring the Kingdom's en-

human rights agreements, he

Referring to the work of Amnesty International, he said that the London-based

group, which was established

in 1961, now comprises 1.2

million members in 41 coun-

tries. He said they conduct

Government urges JPRC to provide more gas cylinders

Ministry reviews gas storage safety measures Noting that the JPRC late-

imported 50,000 additional

cylinders to meet recent shor-

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government Saturday urged the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) to increase its daily provisions of gas cylinders from 300 to 500. The decision, taken at a

meeting chaired by Minister of Energy and Mineral Re-sources Talal Ureiqat, came less than 24 hours after an explosion at a gas storage facility near the Sports City neighbourhood destroyed about 1000 gas cylinders. The government also pas-

sed several measures concerning the bottling of gas, prevention of price manipulation and setting guidelines for ensuring greater storage safety and distribution processes. according to the Jordan News A CDD official said that Agency, Petra and the second only one person sustained

tages, the government said that each cylinder sells for JD18.5 to consumers and the gas to fill the average cylinder is to be sold for no more than JD2, stressing that the distri-butors will be working extra hours in order to ensure wider distribution of the much needed energy source. Meanwhile, the Civil De-fence Department (CDD) re-

ported Saturday that investigations into the causes of the explosions Friday evening near the Sports City, which caused extensive fires at two storage facilities were still

light injuries from the explosions. He was discharged from hospital Saturday after treatment.

The official told the Jordan Times that CDD inspection teams were at the site all day Saturday in order to determine the cause of the explo-The Ministry of Energy

and Mineral Resources plans another meeting soon to follow up and decide on safer warehouse storage of gas cylinders and the location of such facilities.

The meeting was attended CDD Director General ieutenant General Afif Ghoul, as well as the director of the JPRF, the president of the distributors of fuel and several concerned officials.

Islamic, Western delegates explore commitments to human rights

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Despite sweeping worldwide political changes that many countries hoped would lead to democracy and stabilisation, the issue of human rights has been pushed to the forefront of the international agenda.

Commitment to human rights seems to be moving backwards instead of forwards, according to some observers.

rights have therefore taken on a renewed urgency within international and national agendas.

non-governmental organisation (NGO) has organised a three-day, multifaith, multi-cultural roundtable in Amman this week in cooperation with the Jordanian Institute of Democracy.

Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Abu Baker said that Jordan

commitments to human rights.

"As we approach the bi-

value system, and a shared Discussions on human

For this reason, the International Movement of Rights and Humanity, a

Prince Hassan, the round table provides a forum in which Islamic and Western delegates to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights can explore their specific

millennium of the birth of Christ," said the Crown Prince in a speech delivered on his behalf by Senator Kamal Abu Jaber, "and the tri-millennium celebrations of the holy city of Jerusalem, we must realise that these anniversaries will be devoid of meaning unless we can find a shared

notion of moral authority. by which to govern our shared, but single world." More than any technological advances or economic growth, the world needs a global consensus on human

rights, he said. Three panel discussions will cover the legal and political dimensions of human rights, religious and socio-cultural aspects as well as media and public perceptions of human rights.

Other working groups will discuss the promotion of multi-faith understanding of human rights, and the contribution of culture in promoting international tolerance and strengthening international human rights laws and commitment to human rights.

More than 30 delegates

are to participate in the three-day conference. The roster boasts an array of participants from around the world including Indonesia, the United States, Tunisia, the United Kingdom and other coun-

Jordan is represented at the roundtable by Mohammad Adnan Al Bakhit, president of AL al Bayt University, Mazen Armouti, president of the Institute of Democracy; Mohammad Tawfiq Al Khalidi, director of the Legal Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Awn Khasawneh, legal advisor to the Crown Prince and member of the International Board of Rights and Humanity. Musa Keilani, editor-inchief of Al Dustour and former ambassador to Bahrain, Naela Rashdan, Upper House parliamenta-rian, Kamel Al Sharif, former minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Nabeel Talhouni, director of International Organisations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mohammad Tarawneh, deputy president of the Arab Organisa-

WHAT'S GOING ON

★ Film entitled "The Sword in the Stone" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

8:00 p.m.

LECTURES

* Lecture entitled "The Excavations of the Umayyad Palace, Amman Citadel" by Dr. Muhammad Najjar, Dr. Antonio Almag-ro, and Mr. Pedro Jemilis at the Friends of Archaeology (FoA) Center at 7:00 p.m. (The lecture precedes a field trip to the Umayyad Palace organised by the FoA on Dec. 16).

★ Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "The Palestinian Legal Drama...Where To?" by Mr. Raja' Shhadeh of Palestine at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

☆ Exhibition of home furnishings and furniture entitled "Colours and Crafts" at the

Queen Alia Fund for Social Development new offices, Al Madina Al Munawara Street.

★ Exhibition of portraits by Fahrelnissa Zeid and the exhibition of contemporary Arab artist at Darat Al Funum.

Concert at the Royal Cultural Centre at * Exhibition of oil paintings by Salman Abbas at Alia Art Gallery. ☆ Exhibition of abstract by several artists at

the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art. ☆ Exhibition of paintings by Ismail and Tamam Shammout at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

★ Exhibition of Muna Saudi's private collection of contemporary arts and Jordanian antiques at Abdoun Village (Tel 829700). Exhibition of paintings by Sadik Kwaish at the French Cultural Centre.

Exhibition by Akram Naji Shaker at Ab'and Art Gallery. Exhibition of paintings by D_T , All Al Ghoul at the Italian Language Centre (Tel.

669348).

☆ Exhibition by artists Lattif Al Khateeb and Muhy Khaleefa at the Housing Bank Gallery.

dorsement of the remaining tional (AI) plans to organise countries in implementing a workshop towards the similar plans, including Tuniinternational agreements, end of December to discuss sia, where such programmes said Mr. Abu Baker. prospects for the introduction are already in place, Mr. Abu But Jordan is considered of human rights courses in Baker said. among the foremost Arab The Jordanian AI branch, the curricula of schools and states to sign international universities, according to

assistance from them to im- maining 17 agreements.

which formally was licensed to operate in 1992, has been conducting several activities including regular lectures on human rights issues for senior officers of the Public Security Department (PSD), a programme which is expected to

charge of prisons and traffic, according to Mr. Abu Baker. Referring to Jordan's human rights performance, Mr. Abu Baker said that so far, the country has endorsed 28 international human rights agreements, but the Jordanian Al branch has been working to ensure that the

expand to include officers in

their work without political bias. Adding that AI groups continue to face harassment in some Arab states, Mr.

was an exception because here, Amnesty International receives all the facilities and help it needs for its work.

Kingdom endorse the re-'Lack of funding, equipment hinders research in Jordan'

By Ian Atalia Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's scientific researchers are as well-trained and qualified as their counterparts in industrialised countries, and it is a lack of funding and equipment rather than a lack of skills and know-how which hinder efforts to develop internationally competitive research programmes in the Kingdom, a foreign expert claimed

Saturday.
"A lot of knowledge is there," Wolfgang Voelter of Germany's Tubingen University told the Jordan Times. But, he maintained, spending extensive money and effort to send science specialists abroad for study at "top-notch foreign institutions, is not paying off if the infrastructure is not there for them when they

come back to work." Dr. Voelter spoke after a

week of meetings with Jordanian officials to conclude arrangements for a cooperative research venture between Tubingen University and three major Jordanian institutions the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), and Jordan and Yarmonk universities.

The initiative is one of several between Jordanian research departments and European universities being funded by a 3.5 million European Currency Units (ECUs) (JD 2.94 million) lion) grant from the European Union (EU). It's main focus will be on the development of biochemical pro-

Dr. Voelter said that from what he had seen during his visit, he was guardedly optimistic that ongoing Jordanian efforts

to beef up public sector research and development programmes would come to pay off in the future. However, "funding by the government does not appear to be optimal, and it needs to be increased," even though public sector money for scientific research might not be as comfortably available as it

would be in Western coun-

tries, he said.

Over the past decade, the government has established several new scientific bodies in an effort to build up public sector research and development. Most important of them is the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST). Established in 1987, its

role is to be the main decision-making body for public sector research and development efforts. Other new institutions

include the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT) in Al Baqaa, established in 1985, and the nascent National Information Centre, launched in 1993.

But scientists have repeatedly noted that lack of available funding continues to be a constraint on planning and execution of individual research and development projects as well as equipment purchases. Dr. Voelter also express-

ed his opinion that those in the EU looking into aid for infrastructure building on the West Bank must "do something fundamental, and soon," to assist scientists working at Palestinian universities and research

centres there.

He said a visit to Al Najah National University in Nablus during a trip to

the West Bank last Thursday had convinced him that although Palestinian scientists, like their Jordanian counterparts, were extremely well-trained by international standards, their situation was dire.

tion of Human Rights.

From what he had observed, he said, there was an extreme lack of scientific equipment and facilities, as well as a crimping lack of freedom for travel abroad to attend important international conferences and workshops, because of the political situation in the West Bank. As well, he said, "from inside the West Bank, they (scientists) are not able to access the international in-

Dr. Voelter said he also met with Minister of Higher Education Rateb Saoud during his visit to Jordan.

them funding."

stitutions which might give

India's Rao humiliated in state polls NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress Party suffered a stinging setback Saturday in state polls that raised questions about the pace of free-market reforms and his prospects in 1996 general elections.

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Congress, which had con-trolled all four states holding polls, lost its hold on three of them and was neck and neck with the opposition in the

The party, which has ruled India for all but three years since independence in 1947. was crushed in Mr. Rao's home state of Andhra Pradesh as well as in neighbouring Karnataka, by far the largest electoral prizes.

The prime minister's party had held overwhelming maorities in both southern states since the last elections

The state elections have no direct impact on the party's wafer-thin parliamentary majority in the capital New Delhi. Pre-poll surveys gress was routed by the reshowed voters were swayed gional Telugu Desam Party

mostly by local issues and generally were not taking aim

at Mr. Rao. But the losses were significant because the south has provided Mr. Rao with his power base since he took office in 1991 and launched a far-reaching economic liber-

alisation programme.
"Congress does not exist in the north and it has been routed in the south," said the chief minister of the eastern state of Orissa, Biju Patnaik, of the centrist Janata Dal

Mr. Rao's economic reforms have opened up India's markets, delighting foreign investors but bringing increased competition and hardship to many industries. Congress leaders were set

to meet in Delhi Saturday

evening to take stock of the "Our performance is simply shattering," Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee

In Andhra Pradesh, Con-

(TDP). Congress, which had held a 182-seat majority, had prime minister, making new clinched only 14 seats to initiatives or controversial TDP's 160. decisions much more diffi-TDP chief N.T. Rama Rao cult," the Indian Express

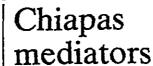
wasted no time announcing "A major question mark he would immediately imnow looms against his (Rao's) ability to win the pose state-wide prohibition against all alcohol. Local businessmen said the ban. 1996 general election." the Economic Times said in an supported by women activeditorial. Elections in five ists, would cost the state govemment \$250 million in exother states are set for Februcise levies.

"This will send a wrong Business leaders said Mr. signal to foreign investors. Rao would probably not rean official with a Delhi-based verse his liberalisation drive liquor factory said. but with fresh elections due in five states next February and general polls in 1996, it With all but one of 224 seats decided in Karnataka, the opposition Janata Dal

could stall. "They (reforms) have already slowed down." said R.C. Bhargava, managing director of car maker Maruti Udyog.

Some critics were quick to point the finger of blame at Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, who has spearheaded the liberalisation drive. "It was all Manmohan's fault." read a front-page headline in the Asian Age.





ment of two former presidents for their role in a 1979 coup, witnesses and reports "Reject the trade accord," the protesters shouted in street protests in Seoul and

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (R) — Mediators seeking peace between Mexico's government and peasant guerrillas warned that the country is on the brink of civil war and called on the army to ease its

The National Intermediation Commission said late Friday that the southern state of Chiapas, where so-called Zapatista rebels this week threatened fresh military attacks to end an 11-monthold ceasefire, was close to

civil war," said the commission, which is led by peace mediator Bishop Samuel Ruiz and several other digni-

commission members urged ment to m military and political pressure on the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN). which launched its rebellion for democracy and indigenous rights on Jan. 1.

Avendano swore in Thursday as "rebel governor," pledging to set up a rival administration for Chiapas's majority indigenous population and lead a civil resistance movement making the state ungovernable for the elected Gover-

Mr. Avendano urged villages where he had the Zapatistas have strong support to stop paying taxes to the state government, instead contributing directly to his rival

barricades, Yonhap said. They also demanded the staged violent protests Saturgovernment retract its day in South Korea against attempt to railroad ratificaratification of a world free tion of the GATT bill trade accord and for punishthrough parliament without proper measures and to protect the nation's crumbling agriculture industry, it said. In Seoul, some 1,000 stu-

railway station Saturday against the failure to indict two former generals-turned president in a 1979 coup. South Korean radical students

and a ruling party office urging immediate punishment of the two former presidents Chun Doo-Hwan and Roh Tae-Woo (AFP photo)

50 vehicles through police

dents staged running protests, chased by officers who two other provincial cities. sprayed tear gas, after an anti-government rally with referring to the agreement reached under the General Agreement on Tariffs and opposition party supporters, witnesses said. "Indict the rebels." the At least 13 people were

Demonstrators stage a protest in front of Scoul

students in Seoul shouted, urging the immediate punishment of former generalsturned-president Chun Doo-

Hwan and Roh Tae-Woo for their role in a 1979 coup. The Seoul rally was sponsored by the main opposition group, the Democratic Party, which returned to parliament

boycott launched when prosecutors decided in October not to indict the two former presidents. Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh

Monday after a month-long

hurled firebombs into a prosecution building

have been found guilty of leading the 1979 mutiny that brought Mr. Chun to power. The ruling camp has vowed

to have parliament ratify the GATT bill before the year's end, buoyed by public polls favouring the government's liberalisation blueprint. The global accord would

create a new trade order under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and would force open South Korea's markets for foreign products.

Radicals also attacked a prosecution building and a ruling party office early Saturday, slamming President Kim Young-Sam's govemment for bowing to outside trade pressure.

Christmas manuscript sells for \$255,000 NEW YORK (AP) - A

single sheet of paper hearing a handwritten copy of the

classic poem that begins

"twas the night before Chrise-mas" sold Friday for \$255,(XX) at Christie's auction house. Author Clement Clarke Moore left just three copies of the poem written in his own hand. This version was written in 1860 when he was \$1. Moore had transcribed the copy at the request of an admirer, cramming all 56 lines onto one small sheet in his tiny, perfect handwriting. Moore wrote the poem-formally titled A Visit From St. Nicholas — in 1822. Legend has it that the idea came to him while he was out buying a Turkey for his wife to roast on Christmas Eve and give to the poor of the local parish. Christie's had estimated that the manuscript, written in brown ink, would sell for between \$70,000 and \$90,000. A Bidding war drove the price up and the victor, entrepreneur Ralph Gadiel, said he was determined to have it at any price. Gadiel, whose Illinoisbased International Resourcing Services Company sells gifts and collectibles, plans to market a limited edition of

Gay German lawmaker seeks to marry partner

copies of the manuscript next

BONN (AFP) -- A gay German lawmaker wants to marry the man he has been living with for two-and-a-half years and has requested a civil ceremony marriage licence from the city of Cologne, the German daily Bild said Saturday, "My partner is French, I love him and I want to marry him." 33-year-old Volker Beck told Bild. Mr Beck, who was elected on Oct. 16 as a candidate of the Green Party, is the first openly gay deputy in the German parliament. He said his demand for n marriage licence had been turned down. "I am a single man against my own wishes, Mr. Beck told Bild. "If I was hospitalised for a serious illness, my partner would not have the right to visit me or take a decision on whether I should be operated on in an emergency situation," he said. "If the signatory to a lease agreement dies, the bereaved has no right to stay in the house and has to leave." he added. Bild, Germany's top selling daily, estimates the number of homosexuals in Germany at 3.2 million, put at two million gay men and 1.2 million gay women. So far, no homosexuals have managed to marry in Germany, but several couples have placed complaints before the constitutional court demanding the right. Among

Body branding gains in popularity

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) -

the most famous, are televi-

sion personality Hella Von

Sinnen and her partner

Corenelia Scheel, daughter

of former federal President

Walter Schell.

They call it "slash and burn": One second's exposure to white-hot metal for a lasting scar and, presumably, lasting satisfaction. It's called body branding, and it joins piercing as the latest in personal statements. "With tattooing you're getting something embedded in your skin. But with branding, it's bringing out something that's already there - it's more natural, said Adam Huffman, who pierces skin at a New York shop and has twin suns branded on his torearms. The pain? "It's not as had as anyone would think," he said. "It's actually kind of soothing," Mr. Huffman, 22, said venus modern body arts. where he works, gets only one branding customer every month or two, usually men in their mid-2ts. The real ac-tion, he said, is on the west coast. In San Francisco, most professional branding is done in two shops where pertorating noses, hips and more private parts are still the principal business. Three to six customers a week show up in search of a more permanent - and more painful - states ment, said the owner of nomad body piercing. He goes by the single name of Blake. While most of the clientele are white and between 20 and 40, branding began in the 1930s and 1940s among black college traternities, especially in the south, Mr. Blake said. 'It's not a new thing anyone who watches Monday night foots hall has seen it," he said. "It's a hard-core right of pai-

Nujoma, SWAPO win Namibia landslide expected SWAPO to end

WINDHOEK (R) — President Sam Nujoma and his ruling SWAPO swept to easy victory Saturday in Namibia's first post-independence elections, heading for a majority big enough to allow the party to re-write the constitution.

With only one out of 95 counting centres still to de-clare results. SWAPO had 70.6 per cent, the main opposition Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA) 21.9 per cent and the United Democratic Front (UDF) 2.8 per cent.

DTA Vice-President Katuutire Kaura, saying voting had been largely along tribal lines, conceded defeat. "I am conceding defeat as we are I heading for a tribal democracy," he told Reuters. Final results are not ex-

pected until Monday when t postal ballots are counted but t. the SWAPO lead is unassailε able, giving the party the v authority to re-write the 1990 e independence constitution. Political analysts said they

with about 50 seats in the 72-member parliament, compared to the 42 it now holds.

The DTA, which holds 21, was expected to hang on to about 17 and the UDF to have the balance. Smaller opposition parties did not make the one per cent threshold needed for parlia-

In the presidential race Mr. Nujoma, leader of the pre-1990 struggle for independence from neighbouring South Africa, held 71.7 per cent of the vote against 25.5 per cent for the DTA's Mishake Myuongo. his only SWAPO wants a two-

thirds majority on parliament to re-write the constitution and enable Mr. Nujoma to serve a third term. Mr. Nujoma believes the

the opposition parties. In some northern constituencies SWAPO polled more than 94 per cent of the

existing constitution favours

There is little to separate the main parties politically but each draws it support from different ethnic and tribal groupings in Namibia. The formerly Marxist SWA-PO has its power base among the majority Owambo tribe.

had clinched 115.

Party's (BJP) 40.

state of Goa.

Congress, which had held a

178-seat majority in the state.

was running third with only 35 seats behind the Hindu

nationalist Bharatiya Janata

of the small northeastern

state of Sikkim, and was in a

dead heat in the southern

Congress also lost control

"The southern debacle is

Political scientist Andre Du Pisani told state television: "The loyalty towards the (SWAPO) party and the personality is very evident in the north...the country must prepare for SWAPO's twothirds majority.'

Mr. Nujoma led SWAPO in a 23-year bush war against South African rule of the huge desert territory, twice the size of France. Independence was agreed in a deal linked to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

Officials said indications were that 55 to 65 per cent of the 650,000 registered voters had cast ballots, compared to a 90 per cent turn-out in the 1989 pre-independence wate.



File picture showing Joycelyn Elders testifying source Committee during her confirmation before the Senate Labour and Human Re- hearings on Capitol Hill (AFP photo)

White House denies Brown resigning

WASHINGTON (R) - The White House Friday denied reports that Commerce Secretary Ron Brown planned to resign.

A White House spokeswoman, responding to a reta port on Kyodo News Service te quoting U.S. Ambassador Walter Mondale telling Japanese government officials that Mr. Brown planned to resign, said, "that is just inaccurate.

"Ron Brown just the other gc day said he had no plans to resign from the administration. He said he considers his iob the best job in Washington, she said. Kyodo News Service said

Mr. Mondale gave the in-formation Friday night to Yoshiro Mori, secretarygeneral of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the largest of Japan's three ruling parties.

Elders resigns

Meanwhile, Joycelyn Elders was forced to resign as U.S. Surgeon General Friday for suggesting schools should teach about masturbation. She was the first black American to hold that post.

As America's top public health official, her outspoken views on sexuality earned her the undying emnity of many Christians and conservatives. in addition, her uncom-

promising promotion of abortion rights, sex education and condom distribution in schools made her a favourite villain of the Republican Party and an issue in last month's congressional elections.

Oiber unguarded comments lauding homosexual adoption and suggesting the govern-

ment consider possible legislation of drugs outraged many people beyond the right-wing spectrum as well, turning Mrs. Elders into a liability for President Bill Clinton.

It was yet another off-thecuff remark earlier this month, suggesting that children might be taught in school about masturbation, that led to her downfall. "(With) regard to mas-

turbation, I think that is something that is a part of human sexuality and it's part of something that perhaps should be taught" as a means of diverting youngsters from riskier forms of sex, she said at a meeting on world AIDS day at the United Nations on

U.S. gay groups immediately leapt to Mrs. Elders' defence. "It's a chilling develop-ment," said Donald Suggs, a spokesperson for the Gav

Lesbian Alliance Against De-

famation (GLAAD).
"Elders had an obligation to be forthcoming on such issues. It's really chilling that she'd lose her job for focusing on this vital issue," said Mr. Suggs, whose group promotes fair representation of gavs and Lesbians in the

Daniel Wolfe of the Gay Mens' Health Crisis, the largest AIDS service in the United States, told Reuters awkward. Uncomfort-

able and embarrassing. But they were also lifesaving. Our fear about all of this is that it will make all other government leaders less like-

ly to speak out frankly about

the difficult truth of AIDS.

The fact is that masturbation

is an activity that does not put you at risk for HIV," said Mr. Wolfe.

Mrs. Elders' life in many ways has been an inspiring story of how intelligence and guts could overcome bad circumstances. Born in Arkansas to the

family of a sharecropper in 1933, Mrs. Elders as a child had to walk five miles (eight km) to and from her segregated school. She never saw a doctor until her first year of

Aged 15, she received a scholarship from the United Methodist Church to attend Philander Smith College in Little Rock, an all black school. Three years later, she entered the U.S. army as a lieutenant and in 1956 enrolled in the University of Arkansas Medical School on the GI Bill, becoming only the second black woman to

graduate. Mrs. Elders had become a distinguished pediatrician with 150 articles to her name when she was appointed by then-Governor Bill Clinton as director of the Arkansas Department of Health in

She soon found herself at the centre of controversy by creating school-based health clinics that dispensed contraceptives on demand. Opponents called her "condom queen" and "director of the Arkansas holocaust" for her advocacy of abortion

Appointed Surgeon General in 1993, Mrs. Elders told the Senate during confirmation hearings she wanted to change the behaviour and attitudes of Americans towards health by putting prevention first.

rights.

warn of civil war in Mexico

pressure on the rebels.

exploding into violence.

Mexico is in danger of a

In their statement, the

"Priority should be given to breaking the military circle around the EZLN and to a policy that does not look to take away (the Zapatistas') social support as part of a counter-insurgency war,' they said.

Opposition leader Amado nor Eduardo Robledo.

administration.

from the 6,000 party delegates. In a race against fellow

Japan's new opposition unfurls its flag

Japan's newest and largest opposition party unfurled a reformist flag in its inaugural convention Saturday, calling for a "third opening" of the country to the world. "We must take off the old

coat of parties that worked only for the benefit of a small group of people." party head name minister from 1989 to 1991, told the gala launch of the New Frontier Party (NFP).

Trade (GATT).

injured in the southern

opposition stronghold of

Chunju when riot police

blocked a march by some

1,200 farmers and students,

said the Yonhap News Agen-

cy.
The demonstrators in

Chunju hurled rocks, driving

YOKOHAMA, Japan (R) -

Mr. Kaifu and his deputy Ichiro Ozawa said the NFP should spearhead radical reforms in political, social and economic structures similar to the fundamental changes that had previously swept Japan. He was referring to 1854

when the United States forced open Japan from the three centuries of isolation and 1945 when America introduced democracy after World War II. Party officials chose Yokohama for the event because it

was Japan's first modern port city to be opened to the "We will support the government as long as they keep

up with correct reforms," said Mr. Kaifu. "But if not, well we can

ex-Premier Tsutomu Hata, Mr. Kaifu was elected last

Thursday to head the new party, formed by a merger of nine non-Communist opposition parties. The NFP becomes Japan's second largest party with 180 lawmakers in the 511-seat

lower house. The largest party is the 200-strong Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), senior partner in an unwieldy coalition with Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's Socialist Party.

Mr. Kaifu and Mr. Ozawa are ex-LDP men fighting to bring down their old party. In an interview in Saturday's Asahi Shimbun, a con-

fident Kaifu called on Mr. Murayama to dissolve parliament for early general elections, not scheduled until mid-1997 "The Murayama govern-ment has not been baptised

through elections and has violated campaign platforms," Mr. Kaifu said in the interview. "He should ask the people to make a judgement at the earliest possible

On Friday, Mr. Murayama rejected calls for early elections because he said the

The introduction of a single-seat electoral system spurred the formation of the new combined opposition party because the new system

cy issues to be solved.

ing domestic and foreign poli-

works against parties in campaign funding.
The NFP convention opened with a 20-minute rendition of Beethoven's

Ninth Symphony, Song Of Joy, performed by a full orchestra and a 300-member chorus. Hi-tech displays of the party logo, a ship's steering

wheel, and a giant television screen gave more colour than is usual to a Japanese political convention. Mr. Kaifu said the two

main pillars of the new party were "continuous reforms" and "responsible politics." He cited two alarming issues facing the nation.

The first was the bullying suicide of a 13-year old boy and the second a recent report ranking productivity among nations — Japan had kept the top position for eight years but gave it up to the United States and now ranks third, beaten also by Singa-

"There is a growing concern about education and productivity," Mr. Kaifu said. "Our duty is to address

Chinese town grieves as it buries its children

dren burned to death in Chi-

"The whole city is immersed in grief," a local official, who refused to be identified, said by telephone, "For this town this is a disaster that has drowned all hope.

from this sorrow for years how can we even think of passing the Chinese New Year festival?" China's deadliest fire in 15 years raged through the

Friendship Hall Cinema in Karamay, near the border with the former Soviet Union, Thursday evening when it was packed with more than 900 people, including at least 500 schoolchildren performing in and watching a cultural Officials said 311 people,

and 225 injured, but added they were unable to give an exact death toll because many parents took the bodies of their children home immediately to mourn.

eight years old. Hospitals said 78 of the injured were in critical condition with 11 unlikely to sur-

vive. Three children had burns over 90 per cent of their bodies, a doctor said. More than 10,000 of Kara-

may's 220,000 residents turned out in silence Friday for funerals of about 80 children from families of the local Muslim Uighur minority whose custom is not to allow the dead to spend a night unburied, the official said.

On Saturday, the town mourned under driving snow as families buried more children, the cream of Karamay's primary and secondary schools who had been chosen to present a cultural performance to a visiting education inspection team, he said.

The scene at the cinema and the funerals is so horrible, it is so horrible that people cannot even bear to look - we cannot bear to look at the bodies," he said. The fire — the second to break out in the cinema since it was refurbished two years

fault that set alight curtains, he said. When frightened children tried to leave their seats to escape the smoke, they were ordered to remain sitting and maintain discipline, the offi-

cial said. Most victims were pupils from two primary schools and a secondary school sitting in the front rows who were engulfed in flames when a ball of fire erupted from the smoking curtains and exploded into the auditorium, witnesses said. Then the ceiling crashed down, newspap-

were padlocked and iron bars blocked the windows. Most of the bodies were found piled near the only exit, a witness said. "These babies were our

official said, his voice break-A teacher plunged three times into the blazing hall to bring out children. He did

One was national piano prodigy Yang Liu, the official

Secretary Fu Zhijiang flew to the town in Xinjiang province, about 300 kilometres northwest of the provincial capital of Urumpi, where oilfields provide employment for 90 per cent of residents,

not handle this properly, the local people will not accept it," the official said. Residents were gripped by fury and despair as the government imposed a total blackout on details of the calamity and police cordoned off hospitals, preventing even pa-

Uighur minority population. They won't even tell us how many are dead," He said no attention had been paid to an earlier, small

fire in the cinema, and accused the government of negligence. All those in charge of security and safety - the director, deputy director and

knows if they have returned. The Karamay blaze comes just two weeks after a burning newspaper tossed onto a sofa at a birthday party transformed a dance hall in north-

died. The State Council

surely replace them," he said nation could not afford a to cheers and loud applause; political vacuum with pressthis,

BELIING (R) - Thousands grieved in China's northwest oil town of Karamay Saturday, standing in falling snow to mourn a generation as they buried more of the 300 chil-

na's worst fire in 15 years. "Karamay will not recover

ago -- began with sparks mostly children, were killed from an apparent electrical The youngest to die were

ers said. All but one of the doors

> very best, they were chosen from the model classes." the ing with rage.

not come out on his fourth trip.
Surviving children emerged in shock.

"I hate this inspection team," he quoted Yang as saving after the disaster. "As soon as they came they made us sing and dance for them." State Council Deputy

"If the government does

rents from entering, he said. Xinjiang has a history of ethnic unrest among its

deputy Communist Party secretary are abroad. Who

eastern Liaoning province into an inferno in which 233 young weekend revellers

(cabinet) issued an emergen. cy directive ordering utmost importance for fire prevention measures and immediate closure of substandard establishments.

Christmas manuscript sells for \$255,000 NIW YORK (AP)

single sheet of paper bearing a handwritten copy of the classic potent that heging that he with the method before Christian in the control of the classic potent before Christian in the control of the c Mass the ment before Christ.

Mass sold bridge for \$255,000 at Christie's duction house. Anthor Clement Clarke Minute left first three states when we then cedines of the forem written in his own hand. This version was written in isre) when he was \$1 Moore had trans-erabed the copy at the request of an admirer, clamming all be line's controlled small sheet in his time, perfect handwill. to the this period handwin the Monte whate the poem to make a Visit to Mark the Mark that the Mark that the Mark the Mar came to him while he was our buying a Tarkey for his wife to reast on thristmas Ere and give to the poor of the local pairsh charters had estimated that the name wind, willien in blown ink would well for between 5 17,1881 and Somewhat Visid Just was drove the true ab and the victor, entertenent Ralph Cardie! said he was determined to have it all any price Cardiel whose Illinois pased International Resource ing Services Company sells

Gay German lawmaker seeks to marry partner

Christmas

gits and collectibles, plans to

market a familied solding of

copies of the manuscript neg

BONN (AFP) A gay their man lawmaker wants to matry the man he has been living with for two-and-a-half yearand has requested a mil cerement mainage hear from the cuts of Courting the Ciciman datis bidd and Segday "My partner of tranch | love him and I was the same him." 33 year out Asian Brek told Bild No Fea who was riected or our ina candidate of the regi-Party, is the first organizadeputy in the Germannia ment. He said his devices a marriage heenes to turned down 11 ... man against my ow a Mr. Beck fold Rife 15 hospitalised for a six ness, my partner have the night to comke a decision on a should be operated. emergency streets said. If the stend lease agreement day reased has no tight to do: the house and his in its by added Bild a series top selling days of the the number of him size. or Communication of hare put at two miles of some

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Chechen soldiers stand next to the eternal flame of a World War II memorial during a mid-day prayer on a frosty day in the main square in Grozny as the tensions between the breakaway Republic of Chechenya and Russia go 'on (AFP)

Jets bomb Chechenya as Russia seals its borders

GROZNY, Russia (Agencies) — Planes bombed sites near the Chechen capital Grozny Saturday as tension in the rebel region reached

new, dangerous highs. Russia's ITAR-TASS news agency said the Russian government was sealing off the Chechen borders and closing its airspace.

"The Russian government today ordered the Interior Ministry to seal off the borders with Chechenya and the Defence Ministry to seal off the airspace of this republic,"

It said the decision was taken in accordance with a decree issued by President Boris Yeltsin Friday. This authorised the cabinet to use all possible means to regain control of the rebel region.

Chechenya, a mountainous area on Russia's southern rim. declared independence

Russia has been building up troops on the Chechen borders for the last two weeks, since the region's Moscow-backed opposition failed to seize Grozny and oust separatist Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Saturday's air raid was the latest in a series since the abortive opposition assault.

At least nine people have died in previous attacks but there were no initial reports of casualties from Saturday's

The raid was in two stages, starting at around one p.m. (1000 · GMT).

First a high altitude bomber made four passes high over Grozny and a Reuter correspondent heard loud explosions from the town of Argun, 15 kilometres southeast of the Chechen capital. A thick cloud of black smoke rose up from the town.

Two low-flying jets appeared minutes after the bomber droned away, firing at least one missile towards a residential area some two kilometres from the centre. The missile hit an apartment block, but did not explode.

Chechen anti-aircraft forces responded with a barrage of fire from light and heavy anti-aircraft guns. Armed men in the square below the presidential palace unleashed round after round of bullets from Kalshnikoy weapons, but the planes flew

The situation in Groziny had been tense throughout

Few people could be seen on the streets of the town of some 400,000 people, except near the central presidentia palace where about 1,000 people have been holding a non-stop rally to support Mr. Dudayev.

Mr. Yeltsin has sent Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and Interior Minister Viktor Yerin to North Ossetia, a is massed.

who is in charge of coordinating action there.

A Reuter photographer in the area said the troops were tense and many officers expected an order to move into Chechenya.

Chechen Vice-President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev said Friday his people were ready to fight to defend their independence. But he said he did not expect a Russian attack immediately.

'We are ready to receive them, weapons in hands, and we will fight to the end for independence," said Mr. Yandarbiyev. "An intervention in

Chechenya could lead to general war in the Caucasus," he said. Mr. Yeltsin's decree did

not mention President Dudayev by name, but it was clearly directed at the leader of the Caucasus republic.

The decree authorised the government to use "all the means available to the state to assure the security of state, the legitimacy, the rights and liberty of citizens, the protection of public order, the fight against criminality and the disarmament of all illegal military organisations."

In Azerbaijan, a former Soviet republic south of Chechenya, local Muslims appealed to the Islamic conference for "solidarity.

"We turn to you at a moment when deadly danger looms over Chechenya and poses a huge threat to the entire Islamic World," they said, according to the Azerbaijani News Agency, Turan. Mr. Yeltsin himself said in

August that Russia had avoided ethnic strife only because it abstained from force. "If we violate this principle

in Chechenya, the Caucasus will rise up. It will mean so much blood and tumult that pashin and Deputy Prime no one will ever forgive us,"

Bosnian Serbs free hostages; ease confrontation with U.N.

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serb forces eased their con-frontation with the United Nations Saturday, freeing scores of U.N. hostages and allowing a food convoy to

reach Sarajevo. But the United Nations Protection Force (UNPRO-FOR) warned that some of its duties, such as anti-sniper patrols in the capital and armoured escorts for aid convoys, would grind to a halt unless the Serbs lifted a blockade on fuel supplies.

Spokesman Jan-Dirk Merveldt told reporters: "Nothing short of a total freedom of movement for UNPRO-FOR will be acceptable... The quicker we can get aid to those in desperate trouble, the better for the whole community."

European Union governments, having rejected calls for a U.N. withdrawal from Bosnia, ended a summit in Germany by voicing strong support for the U.N. aid programme which the Serbs have obstructed systematically for months.

In a communique conde-mning the Serb onslaught on Bihac which provoked the present crisis, the EU said UNPROFOR "should continue its crucial mission of providing humanitarian assistance and saving human

Diplomatic and military tensions were eased by signals from the Bosnian Serbs that they are ready to talk again about a peace plan drawn up by the major powers, which they rejected in

The plan would divide Bosnia roughly in two between the Serbs and a confederation of Muslims and Croats. No date was set for talks

but the Serbs asked for early consultations with U.S. envoy Charles Redman, who will have to secure the agreement of the Muslim-led Bosnian government to any change in the plan, which it has already accepted. There was indirect evi-

dence of the Bosnian Serbs' apparent willingness to negotiate when rump Yugoslavia restored their telephone communications Friday. These were cut in August

when Serbian President Slo-

bodan Milosevic imposed a military and economic blockade on them as punishment for turning down the peace

Envoys of the five-nation 'contact group" have shuttled between the warring sides to promote renewed talks since the Bihac fighting brought Serb-U.N. relations to their lowest ebb of the

32-month war.
The Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) seized about 500 U.N. peacekeepers as hostages against NATO air strikes activated missile bases which threatened NATO warplanes and tightened the noose an aid deliveries.

Mr. Merveldt said the last 187 hostages were released Saturday but other U.N. sources said four were still detained in Banja Luka in northern Bosnia.

The food convoy to Sarajevo brought 180 tonnes of grain which assured immediate bread supplies but the real test of Serb good intentions lay in the lifting of the fuel blockade, described by Mr. Merveldt as "particularly worrisome."

Ukrainian U.N peacekeepers in Saraievo had no petrol for their armoured vehicles and French troops were unable to carry out antisniper patrols.

Peacekeepers in the eastern Muslim enclaves of Gorazde and Srebrenica could not use their vehicles and patrolled on foot despite the constant threat from

marksmen. U.N. spokeswoman Miriam Suchaki said UN-PROFOR would stop escorting aid convoys Monday and be unable to send repair crews to Sarajevo utilities without new supplies of fuel. UNPROFOR commander,

set out to try to reach the Bihac enclave and waited for Serb permission to enter it as fighting continued between Muslims and Serbs. The U.N. blamed Serbs for

General Sir Michael Rose,

mortar attacks which killed a woman and wounded seven other-people Friday in Bihac town, a U.N. protected "safe агеа.

We view this attack as a clear intimidation aimed at the civilian population,"

Serb soldiers check boxes with humanitarian aid opened by a French U.N. soldier at a check point in the Serb-controlled Croatian region of Krajina. The nine-truck UNHCR convoy carrying some 90 tonnes of desperately needed food supplies later was allowed to pass and reached its destination, the Muslim enclave of Bihac (AFP photo)

spokesman Matthew Risley

Until it receded Friday, the prospect of an UNPROFOR withdrawal threatened to draw NATO and U.S. forces into the conflict to protect the lightly-armed U.N. troops from attack while they pulled

A Western diplomat in Sarajevo said that although the Serbs brought about the confrontation by their harassment of the U.N., it was in their interests that the peacekeepers remain as insurance against NATO air attacks.

'The Serbs should be on their knees with flowers begging the U.N. to stay," he added.

Meanwhile one of Prindent Bill Clinton's harshest critics Friday gave the U.S. leader strong support for his offer to send troops to cover any U.N. withdrawal from

"I am very supportive of from that," said Republican House gress.

of Representatives Speaker designate Newt Gingrich of Georgia, an outspoken oppo nent of the Clinton adminis

tration on a range of issues "After all, our British and French allies have been tak ing risks for three years. Be cause of the U.N.'s incredibly mismanaged strategy. I thin! that we have to have a pretty high commitment to helping our allies get out of there with a minimum loss of life, he added.

On Thursday, the United States announced it would provide up to half the troop: needed to cover any remova of U.N. peacekeepers from Bosnia.

"I think it's a very ver figult situation and I do no in any way blame the Clintor administration. I think this has been grotesquely mis managed by the United Na tions," added Mr. Gingrich giving Mr. Clinton the mos outspoken support so fa. from any member of Con

Clinton attacks Republican welfare plan

Rebels accuse Angola of violating ceasefire

SAO TOME (R) — The Angolan rebel movement UNITA said Saturday government forces had attacked its positions near the northern town of Malange, breaking an already shaky ceasefire

agreement.
UNITA Radio, monitored in the island state of Sao Tome and principe, said government troops had since Wednesday attacked the villages of Conda and Longa. some 15 kilometres east of Malange. It gave no details of casualties.

A UNITA statement released in Lisbon late Friday said government forces had captured the town of Lombe, 20 kilometres west of Malange, on Dec. 3 and were patrolling north and south of Lombe.

A U.N. World Food Programme plane was hit by gunfire as it prepared to land with food supplies for Malange Wednesday.

An aid source said Thurs-

day the aircraft was hit by "a significant number of bullets" as it came in to land at Malange. The plane touched down safely at the town and no one was hurt. Relief flights to the town

guarantees had been received for the safety of aircraft. Despite the Nov. 22 ceasefire in the 19-year civil war, road access to Malange is still difficult because of minefields, the rainy season and

the threat of attack.

have been suspended until

The UNITA statement said government forces were preparing to advance on Negage, which has an airfield, near the northern town of These ceasefire violations

have increased and led to constant provocations of our forces by MPLA troops, with the clear intention of advancing on Negage at any mo-No independent confirma-

tion of UNITA's accusations was available.

MIAMI (R) - President Bill The plan would ban states

Clinton Saturday called for welfare reform next year, but said a Republican plan suggesting that the children of some recipients might be put in orphanages was "dead wrong." Mr. Clinton, in Miami for

the Summit of the Americas meeting of 34 hemispheric leaders, used his weekly radio address to the nation to focus on the need for welfare reform — a principle endorsed by both Democrats and Republicans. "We have to change wel-

fare so that it drives people toward the freedom of work, not the confines of dependence," Mr. Clinton said. 'Work is still the best social programme ever invented."

He said that "we won't have ended welfare as we know it until its central focus is to move people off welfare and into a job so that they can support themseives and their families." Mr. Clinton condemned a

Republican proposal, contained in the "contract with America" offered by Newt Gingrich, the next speaker of the House of Representatives, the leader of the majority party in the 435-member

from paying welfare benefits to children whose paternity is not established and to those born out of wedlock to

women under 18. One possible use of the money saved would be for states to establish orphanages, according to the Republican plan.

'There's some people out there who argue that we should let some sort of big, new institution take parents' place, that we should even take children away from parents, and put the children in orphanages," Mr. Clinton

"Well those people are dead wrong," he said. "We need less governmental interference in family life, not more.'

Mr. Clinton called Thursday for a national conference on welfare reform in January with the goal of getting a bipartisan proposal before Congress early next year.

There are a lot of ideas out there for reforming welfare — some are really good. and some are just political attention getters," Mr. Clinton said, adding that "everybody agrees that the system is badly broken and needs to be home.

fixed." Mr. Clinton, who had cam paigned for presiden vowing to change welfare

as we know it," earlier this year presented Congress with a proposal that would cos some \$9 billion over five vears. It never reached eithe chamber of Congress for His proposal would have

moved about 500,000 people off welfare rolls and into jobs by the year 2004 - but that's a small part of the 4.5 million Americans on welfare. "There's no greater gap

between mainstream American values and modern government than we find in the welfare system," Mr. Clinton

While saying the system was created for all the right reasons," Mr. Clinton said if undermines the very values work, family and responsibility — that people need to put themselves back on track."

He noted that one of the purposes of the summit was to encourage and develop trade within the hemisphere "so that we can create highwage jobs and new opportunities for our people here at

Mafia hearing for 'Mr Italy' postponed 60,000 pages is terrifying. It was the second time that

ROME (R) — A court hearing to decide whether Italy's former Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti should be tried on mafia charges was put off again Saturday to give defence lawvers more time to read through a mountain of documents. Agostino Gristina, the

judge who will hear a case that could lead to the most sensational trial in post-war Italy, said the preliminary hearing, which had been scheduled to begin on Dec. 14, had been postponed until January 27.

He confirmed the six-week delay as Mr. Andreotti, known as "Mr. Italy" for his seven terms as premier, came face to face with mafia boss Salvatore "Toto" Riina in a southern courtroom.

"The hearing has been put back at the request of lawyers for the defence," Judge Gristina said by telephone from the Sicilian capital Palermo,

Mr. Andreotti's lawyers had won a delay. The hearing originally was to have opened on Oct. 19. Prosecuting magistrates have based their case against the former Christian Demo-

crat on testimony from mob turncoats. They alleged that the master political wheeler-dealer protected organised crime in the corridors of power as a

full-fledged member of the mafia. Mr. Andreotti, a devout Roman Catholic, has called the allegations blasphemy, arguing that he is the victim of a mafia plot to punish him

for crackdowns by governments he led. His lawyers say they are still digesting 56,000 pages of prosecution evidence and a further 6,000 pages of transcribed telephone intercepts

submitted by magistrates last "Having to read through said Odoardo Ascari, one of the two defence lawyers. "I'm reading day and night." he told Reuters. Mr. Andreotti, a life sena-

tor, was summoned Saturday to testify at the trial in Reggio Calabria, on the toe of Italy, of Mr. Riina and 13 other alleged mafiosi over the murder in 1991 of a local magistrate.

He exercised a right to remain silent pending clarification of his own position at next month's Palermo

"The only news in this visit of mine is that I was able to see Riina for the first time. even if from a distance. I've only seen him on television before," Mr. Andreotti told reporters. Prosecutors in the Palermo

case alleged Mr. Andreotti had close ties to Mr. Rima, who has been held in virtual isolation following his arrest in 1993 after 23 years at large,

region bordering Chechenya in the north Caucasus where most of the big military force flown in over the last 10 days They joined counterintelligence chief Sergei Ste-Chechen soldiers sit on top of an armoured personnel

carrier that was brought in to guard the presidential palace Minister Nikolai Yegorov, he said. in the main square in Grozny (AFP photo) Pentagon buys V-22; cancels Stealth missile

WASHINGTON (Agencies)
— The Pentagon said Friday it will go ahead with the revolutionary \$30 billion V-22 helicopter programme, but will cancel a \$13 billion "Stealth" missile plan in post-cold war juggling of U.S. weapons.

The V-22 announcement by Defence Secretary Wil-liam Perry was a major boon to Boeing Co. and Textron Inc. They are developing the oft-delayed tilt-rotor helicopter, which takes off vertically but flies like a regular air-

The military is now expected to buy over 500 of the troop-carrying, turbo-prop V-22s in the coming years for the Marine Corps and special operations forces, which use older-style helicopters dating back to the Vietnam War. At a news conference, Mr. Perry announced a number of arms decisions including a major delay in the army's planned "comanche" heli-

of a \$13 billion tri-service standoff attack missile prog-ramme being developed by Northrop-Grumman Corp. The plan to build 1,200 radar-evading "Stealth" cruise missiles for the armed forces has been battered by technical and cost problems. That made it a very logic-

al candidate for cancellation,

copter as well as canceliation

and we are doing that," Mr. Mr. Perry and Deputy Defence Secretary John Deutch told reporters they had decided on a number of weapons delays to save \$7.5 billion in development costs over six years including:

- Indefinite postponement of the army's Comanche attack helicopter, a \$40 billion programme under development by Boeing and United Technologies Corp. Instead, the Pentagon will buy only two flyable prototypes in the foreseeable future in a cut that will cost the firms \$2.1 billion through

- Cutting fiscal 1996 re-search and development funds for the air force's F-22 "Stealth" fighter by \$200 million. But that is not expected to cause major delay's in the air force plan to buy about 400 of the jets for \$75 billion

in the next century. - Reducing construction of Arleigh Burke class destroyers from 18 to 16 over the next six years to save \$1.5

 Delaying construction of a new class of U.S. attack submarine by one year to 2001 to save \$1.5 billon.

- Delaying development of the Marine Corps' advanced amphibious assault vehicle for two years, pushing replacement of current landing craft beyond the turn of the century.
Mr. Perry stressed that the cuts were much smaller than

those he had anticipated before President Bill Clinton announced last week that he would seek an additional \$25 billion in defence spending from Congress for the next six years.
"These cuts, we believe, are prudent, and they will not interfere with our efforts to

develop the new wave of

weaponry needed for the 21st century," the secretary told

adjustments are acceptable. They protect our technology base, and they allow important force modernisation programmes to continue at a rate that we can afford and they do provide the necessary savings which help us increase funding for readi-

Meanwhile, former CIA Director William Colby said Friday the end of the cold war has brought the chance for large cuts in the agency, especially in its budget. The Central Intelligence

Agency (CIA) budget, offi-

cially secret, is known to be about \$3 billion a year. "The Soviet forces were at the Fulda Gap, ready to attack at four o'clock next morning," he said. "They could have been at the English Channel in two weeks.

We had to be able to give any indication we could if they seemed about to do that.' The Fulda Gap is the area in central Germany where it was thought Soviet forces could most easily penetrate

to the West. Now the extremely expensive array of technology used to spot the preliminaries to an invasion is no longer needed, Mr. Colby said. He estimated that it would take five years to rebuild Russian forces to the level of a renewed menace. Mr. Colby, 74, is now a Washington lawyer and

director of an investment project called the Vietnam

Frontier Fund. He was CIA

chief in Saigon during the Vietnam War, Earlier this

month, the Vietnamese gov-

ernment — successor of the

"We believe that these North Vietnam he fought against - refused him a visa to visit the country. He pointed to other indica-

tions that the CIA's scope could be reduced. It is no longer fighting an expensive covert war against

the Soviet in Afghanistan, he

noted.

If today's situation in Bosnia had occurred 15 years ago, Soviet forces would have been on high alert nearby and so would NATO forces — "It could have been World War III." he said. Now Russia and NATO forces are cooperating in Bosnia, he went on, and even if they are not doing such a good job there is a big

difference between confrontation and cooperation. Mr. Colby also suggested that it may be time to dissolve the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

"It won a great victory, but its job is finished," he said. He added that a Western European military alliance is not needed either, as long as the Russians behave well. Mr. Colby urged that CSCE, the Conference on

Security and Cooperation in Europe, replace NATO as the basis for Europe's security. He said he was not proposing that the United States abandon Europe. He pointed out that the CSCE includes both the United States and nearly ali European countries, Russia and other former Soviet republics.
"The idea is to include, not

exclude." he said. Mr. Colby spoke in French to the Club Tocqueville, a group of mostly French re-

By Dr. Fahed Fanck

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Deeds speak louder

THE BOSNIAN conflict is poised to occupy centre stage when the summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) convenes in Casablanca next week. The bankruptcy of the United Nations' policy in dealing with the three-year-old armed conflict has become clearer by the day. There appears to be no prospect whatsoever for diplomacy to succeed in the face of the Serb determination to redraw the map of Bosnia by force. Even NATO appears to be ready to relinquish its role there after Moscow succeeded to checkmate its long-standing efforts to defuse the situation militarily. Against this backdrop, the Islamic states seem ready now to exercise a more effective role in the conflict. Of course it remains unclear what the OIC plans to do to redeem its past stance which was characterised by inaction and rhetorical posture. Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic may have set the tone for the forthcoming OIC summit by demanding a more determined effort by the Muslim states to come to the rescue of his country and people. The question is what would the Islamic countries do more in the future than what they have already done, except having more of them willing to contribute troops to the U.N. Protection Forces (UNPROFOR). Now that several Western countries made known their decision to withdraw their troops from the international service with UNPROFOR, this peacekeeping avenue is of course available to the OIC countries, but it is doubtful that it can charge much of the military esituation in the conflict-stricken country. It is also doubtful that the fighting Serbs would welcome more troops from the Islamic countries, even under the pretext of peace-keeping mistsions. Even financial contributions from the OIC emember states would not be able to offer the Bosnian Muslims effective relief in the face of the jarms embargo still being enforced on all the Scountries of former Yugoslavia.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asef Ahmad Ali has hinted recently that the OIC has a aplan to assist the Bosnians in their ordeal. Although Mr. Ali described this plan as an action plan, in reality it turned out to be nothing more han a planned meeting between the OIC contact group and an international contact group comkprising the U.S., Russia, France, Britain and oGermany. If this is the sort of action plan that the siDIC has in mind, then we are afraid we are back o where we have started three years ago.

Lt is better to be candid with the Bosnians than cio keep on making them believe that real help is ron its way. Then the Bosnians would have to nake their own calculations and draw the necessary conclusions instead of waiting for pi:ffective assistance that remains elusive.

It The OIC is therefore invited to offer the th3osnians a more coherent policy that they can ermderstand and cope with. By pretending that sehe Islamic states agonise over the fate of the 3 Sosnian Muslims and offering nothing more than rivords, they would be in effect not only deceiving tahe Bosnians but undermining the OIC's credi-

MARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

le 3Y EXPRESSING his surprise that the Arab inhabitants K f Palestinian land exceed the two million mark, the Israeli guremier, Yitzhak Rabin, is paving the way for his govern-gurent to announce that it would not tolerate the repatria-Tion of the displaced Palestinians, said Mahmoud Rimawi, writer in Al Ra'i daily Saturday. It is rather strange to

ear the premier make such a statement at a time when his oreign minister and President Arafat were having discusions over calling for a meeting involving the Israelis, the alestinians, the Jordanians and the Egyptians to deter-ine the future of the refugees and the displaced because f Israel's occupation of their own homeland, said the riter. The least that can be said about, Mr. Rabin's atement is that it runs contrary to the spirit of peace and flects the racist nature of Zionism, added the writer. The riter said that the Palestinian land is now inhabited by tore than five million Jews brought in from other countries help Israel perpetuate its occupation of Arab lands and 1at one quarter of a million Jews live in the occupied West ank and Gaza Strip. By hinting that Israel can accept no epatriation of Arabs to their lawful territories, said the riter, Mr. Rabin is putting one more obstacle in the path f establishing a durable peace in the region.

IOHAMMAD KAWASH, a writer in Al Dustour bitterly iticised the Islamist extremist groups who have been illing writers and journalists in Algeria and who have cently slaughtered innocent school-girls as barbaric and amaging the image of Islam. What is happening in Algeria a major distortion of Islam through continued acts of olence and repeated attacks on the lives of innocent cople, said the writer. While the Islamists in the east anduct their oposition to existing regimes and governents through dialogue and positive and constructive iticism, those in Algeria have been resorting to violence nd bloodshedding to achieve their goals, added the writer. he Algerian Islamists' actions are not only cause of disgust nd horror, they actually help strengthen those elements posed to Islam and those who are instigating the world gainst the Muslim nations, concluded the writer. SUNDAY'S ECONOM!C PULSE

North, south Mediterranean partnership gains momentum

IN THEIR session in Lisbon, held in June 1992, the European Union showed a keen interest in the areas beyond their immediate region, especially their southern and eastern flanks, in Maghreb and Mashrek. It seems, they had realised that their own security and stability would not be assured as long as these neighbouring areas remained poor, divided and backward, and consequently a source of trouble.

Although economic considerations are and were always of utmost importance to the European Union, the Europeans found strong interests in the south and east Mediterranean regions in terms of security and social stability. After all, this area is a source of legal and illegal migration, as millions of North Africans and Turks live permanently in France and Germany respectively. The area is also perceived as home for fundamentalism, fanaticism and terrorism, all of which are the natural results of poverty and despair.

In the European Union recent meeting in Corfu, in June 1994, the concept of partnership started to gather momentum. The commission was asked to formulate guidelines for a new union's Mediterranean policy for peace, stability, security and the socio-economic development of the region. A Euro-Mediterranean conference in 1995 is now

under consideration. The purpose is to establish a partnership between the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean, along with specific programmes and budgets, taking into account the interdependence between Europe and the Mediterranean area in environment, energy, migration, trade and investment.

The Europeans give priority to Morocco, Tunis and Malta in the Maghreb area and Turkey, Israel and Cyprus in the Mashrek. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's initiative succeeded in making the European Union expand the partnership project to cover the remaining countries in North Africa and Arab Mashrek, including

The partnership under consideration does not mean joining the European Union. There shall remain two distinct groups. The Europeans may deal with each country separately, but in accordance with a uniform agreement. The major step is to have a free trade area with full exemption of custom tax and other restrictions. The European Union will provide grants and other forms of aid to the tune of European Currency Units (ECUs) 5.5 billion over five years. It will conduct dialogues over political issues, policies, democracy, good governance and human In order for us to enter into a free trade arrangement with Europe, a lot of adjustment, modernisation, efficiency and competitiveness are needed. Mashrek and Maghreh countries will be given an interim period to adjust and reduce customs protection progressively, over 10 to 13 years. Besides, there will be cash, injected as compensation, which will go to governments and not to the casualties. and victims among weak industries. Dialogue is a police expression for teaching us to apply democracy, respect human rights, put an end to corruption and mismanage. ment of resources and pushing governments in this

The north and south Mediterranean partnership could be a more viable alternative to the so-called Middle Bast market, which is believed to be an American idea, but with no one formally calling for its implementation or providing a meaningful guidance or mechanism to go about and underwrite the inevitable costs of adjustment involved.

The Europeans, our colonists in the first half of this century, are able to change their image in the eyes of the Arabs, contrary to the Americans who failed to project themselves as acceptable partners or friends of the Arabs. America behaves like a country whose sole supremacy is a gift it does not know what to make out of.

By Shlomo Ben-Ami

AS WITH most peace accords in modern times, the debate over the Oslo agreement between Israel and the Palestinians tends to oscillate between idealism and realism, righteousness and political naïveté. "Oslo," which is being discussed by the Israeli cabinet this week, was never intended to be a peace treaty; it offered only an agreed framework for a solution of a century-old, intricate conflict. It is from this perspective that its record so far should be assessed.

I have always believed that the legitimate national rights of the Palestinians called for a permanent solution, instead of the complex chain of interdependent interim stages agreed upon in Oslo. And anyway, the difficult structure of the Oslo accords creates too many uncertainties; clearly, the complexity is being conceived by the enemies of the agreement — Hamas, Islamic Jihad and others - as a standing invitation for its destruction.

But the Palestinians do not hold the monopoly on frustration. The logic and con-sequences of the Oslo framework are being chal-lenged by many Israelis, who feel deceived by the failure of the agreement to provide them with greater personal security (the number of victims of Palestinian terrorism since Osio has now reached 100). Some would conclude from this state of affairs that salvation lies in speeding up the negotiations and proceeding to a permanent settlement without delay.

But others are existentially worried by still unanswered questions: is the suicidal brand of terrorism of the extremist Palestinian organisations just their way of promoting the cause of an independent state in Gaza and the West Bank? Or does it represent a more fundamental, and indeed fun-

From Oslo to a lasting peace



damentalist, rejection of any peaceful deal with Israel? Is Yasser Arafat's reluctance to confront his opponents a tactical move or an indication that he does not disayow their strategic objectives; indeed, perhaps even shares them?

For decades, the international community and most Palestinian organisations have been exerting pressure on Israel to reach a deal with Mr. Arafat's PLO. Now that such a deal, imperfect as it may be, has been reached, its viability is being challenged by those who refuse to abandon guns and dynamite; and its legitimacy is being questioned by some champions of the Palestinian cause in the West. This cannot serve as a stimulus to Israel's politically divided society to support

further agreements with the Palestinians

Faced with destitution and hopelessness in Gaza, and a Palestinian outcry for rapid political and economic improvement, it is hard to disagree with the case for an immediate move to a permanent solution, to help us overcome the impasse of desperation and terrorism. The concept of interim agreements has run its course; it must be superseded.

But political realities may not allow this. Is the Rabin government, a desperately narrow coalition constantly losing popular support to the intransigent right, in a position at present to tackle such highly divisive issues as Jerusalem, the future of the settlements, the final borders, the 1948 refugees and the

permanent political status of the Palestinian lands? To address these issues now may be a recipe for bringing down the Rabin government, precipitating the coming to power of the right and possibly stopping dead the entire peace process. And that might be precisely the

strategy of the rejectionist

Palestinian front.

Throughout history, national movements have had to sacrifice unity, even at the price of civil strife, in order to reach the objective of independence and statehood. Zionsim was no exception, and Mr. Arafat may have to face the same tragic dilemma sooner or later - if only to stave off a challenge

to his own rule. Israel, too, will have to abandon the fallacy that peace can be achieved through a wide national con-

wars, with the notable exception of the 1982 Lebanese adventure, unite; peace, paradoxically, is a divisive endeavour, for it requires so many painful compromises that consensus is simply unattainable. The test of leadership, then, is its capacity to opt for the daring decision. even at the price of political perdition. Another fallacy is the neo-

is. In this country, only

colonialist approach that seeks salvation for the Palestinians only through economic development and foreign investments. Important as they are, these can never be a substitute for political rights and national dreams. It is now fair to say that economic cooperation

with the Palestinians is accepted as the way to coment the peace process. Those among us who advocate a political separation between Israel and the Palestinians should support a policy of wise investments in the territories as the best way to free the Palestinians of their economic dependency on Israel, and to disentance them from what is now a truly colonial situation: their absorption as unequal partners in the socio-economic

tissue of Israeli life. Neither Palestinians nor Israelis can expect a peace without pain. We can, however, do more to help make this process more viable. To begin with, we should all abide by our commitments. These impose on Mr. Arafat the obligation, so far unfulfilled, to abrogate the clauses in the Palestinian national covenant that call for Israel's destruction, and "to discipline" terrorists from within his ranks. Confidencebuilding cannot be unilateral. If Israelis are to be convinced of their enemy's just demands, they must be assured that their own are not being

In Oslo, for the first time in the history of their cruel conflict, Israelis and Palestinians started to share a common ethos of peace. Mr. Arafat, the embodiment of our past nightmares, the principal object of our abhorrence throughout the years, walks in our midst, and the earth does not shake. Not only are we tired of the bloody conflict, but also of the war of images that accompanied and fuelled it. As for the Palestinians, Mr. Rabin, the quintessential representative of Israel's military establishment, is now their most reliable partner for peace.

The writer is head of the Morris E Curiel Centre for International Studies at Tel Aviv University. This article is reprinted from The Inde-

Islam — the 'new enemy'

By Haim Baram

The Oslo agreement has failed to bring the peoples of the Middle East any closer, despite the pom-pous ceremonies and drassically premature allocation of Nobel Peace Prizes to the manifestly undeserving protagonists, Messrs. Rabin, Peres, and Ara-fat. The old hatred has not subsided, but Mr. Arafat and his friends have become a tolerated necessity in Israel. Israeli leaders and journalists pour a ndous amount of scorn on Mr. Arafat, and at best grant him the reputation of a survivor, but even this dubious compliment is uttered reluctantly.

The feared and respected enemy now is Islam; the demon-isation of Muslims is part of the same propagandist strategy re-served until recently for Palesti-nian nationalism. The Likud nian nationalism. The Likud leader, Bibi Netanyahu, is currently touring the globe and spreading the new gospel. According to Mr. Netanyahu, Mr. Arafat has become completely unimportant, since he cannot possibly stem the tide of Islamic radicalism generated by Iran. It is an almost risible tactic, since the Likud leader himself described Mr. Arafat, until recently, as the principal threat not only to Israel, but also to the entire Western world. entire Western world.

Mr. Netanyahu has found a new line of reasoning for his ancient rejectionist stance. Mr. Arafat does not matter, the Islamists are going to take over from him and rule the Palestinian people, and therefore any terly pointless. Iran, ironically, is portrayed as the great Satan, capable of threatening the West with nuclear bombs. Lebanon and even Syria will undergo an Islamic revolution pretty soon, their precess flictorion with the their uneasy flirtation with the Americans will end and Israel will regain its status as a main strategic asset of the West. Therefore the pressure on Israel to make territorial conces will also cease. The number of Israelis who are ready to inhale

this nonsense is unbelievable.

A U.S. TV film depicting the "Islamic threat" inside the U.S. was screened in Israel Nov. 22, provoking tremendous public outery and even pseudointellectual debate. The ground is ready and fertile, the anti-peace demonstrations in Gaza leave their mark, the terrorists are feared and hated. And all of them are now from the Islamis

Will Mr. Netanyahu succeed in turning his dubious ploy into a potent weapon in the 1996 general elections? This is indeed a possibility. The old game of scare-mongering is returning to the Israeli political arena; only the enemy has put on a resur the enemy has put on a new attire. The Hamas fighters are motivated by Iran, Israeli "concessions" lead nowhere, and the best policy is to cling to "Eretz Yisrael". This is new politics geared to the same old goals, and the omens are bad. If this policy of scare-

mongering was confined only to Likud circles, it could be dismissed as an act of premature elec-tioneering by Netanyahu. Unfor-tunately, Mr. Rabin himself has adopted a similar line of reasoning, especially in his frequent visits to Washington. The "Isla-mic peril" is one of Mr. Rabin's most tiresome themes, and the aim of his campaign is obvious. An ardent cold war anticommunist all his adult life, he hopes to convince the Americans that Iran is posing the same threat as Moscow in the good old

days.

Even Professor Avishai Margalit, a prominent supporter of the government, accused Mr. Rabin in Maariv on Nov. 28 of playing with fire. Mr. Rabin and Mr. Netanyahu were a "pair of pyromaniaes," he said.

Middle East International.

LETTERS

Hope for life

To the Editor:

"What do you have to do with it?" asked the consul's assistant, confused.

"I work for Al-Amal Cancer Centre," I said, "and we've adopted Tahani's case. We are the ones who found her a hospital to give her the bone marrow transplant." "Yes, but what are you getting out of it?" he asked, still not sure why I was there pleading on behalf of a 10-year-old

girl for a visa to the United States, so she could go get a bone marrow transplant. "Nothing, we're not in this for anything, except helping this cancer patient find a hospital that will do the operation

for her, at their own expense," I explained. He finally began to get the picture.

Like many people in Jordan, this man had no concept of the various roles Al Amal Cancer Centre is being built to take on. He had no notion that even though the centre itself is not yet operational, its work has already begun and its fight

against cancer commenced. When Tahani Huniti and her father came to Al Amal Cancer Centre about three months ago, and Dr. Abdulla Al Khatib asked me to start writing to cancer centres and oncology specialists we had contacts with to try and find her a sponsor. I must confess I was a little sceptical of ever finding a centre that would be willing to receive a foreign patient with acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL) and perform a \$100,000 operation for her, for free!

It was a pity. I thought to myself, especially since she already had a perfectly matching donor, her mother. If Al Amal Cancer Centre had been finished, Tahani could have had the operation here, and it would have been funded by the centre's poor patient fund.

But the fact that the centre is still in the finishing and equipping stages it by no way means that Al Amal Cancer Centre is not ready to start doing its job, because its job is not only to recieve patients in its in-patient and out-patient clinics. No. Its role is to fight cancer in any way it can through prevention, early detection and diagnosis, treatment (surgery, chemotherapy, and therapeutic radiology), rehabilitation, and public education and awareness cam-paigns. And what it cannot do itself, Al Amai Cancer Centre is not above requesting from outside sources, for the good of the patients who seek its refuge.

I lost count of how many centres we wrote to, in the

United States, in the United Kingdom, in Canada, in

Sweden, in Saudi Arabia, not to mention the letters we distributed to the 300 doctors who attended the 8th Jordanian Medical Conference held in Amman this past October. The more time passed, the more apologies we received, the more Tahani's morale dropped, and the more determined we became.

Whenever Tahani was in too much pain from her medication, she would beg her father to take her to see Dr. Khatib, who represented her only chance. It used to put a lump in my throat to see this man, who knew fully well the anguish of losing a daughter to leukemia, crush the pain he felt every time he saw Tahani — because she reminded him so much of the 10-year-old daughter he once had - and do all he could to raise her spirits and give her hope and renew

I had never received a call from the office asking for me at home before. That's why on Nov. 22, at 7:30 in the evening, I was startled when I heard Abu Jamal (Dr. Khatib) screaming: "They've accepted her!" (Every one at the office knew about Tahani, and was anxious for her, even the night guard). I ran to the office and found Dr. Khatib, sitting at my desk, with an unconcealed smile on

"Dr. Razzouk from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis just called," he told me. "He will send you a fax tommorrow confirming their willingness to handle Tahani's operation and its medical cost. See what you can do about getting them a visa as soon as possible."

Only God the Almighty can give life, but in every and any way it can Al Amal Cancer Centre will always do its best to give those who need it the hope... in more ways



Dina Anton Ra'ad, Al Amal Cancer Centre, Amman.

...

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances, Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

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Neither Palestinians nor Israelis can expect a peace without pain. We can. however, do more to help make this process more viable. To begin with we should all abide by our cominitments. These impose on Mr. Aratat the obligation, so lat unfolfilled, to brogue the clauses in the Palestinian national ewenant that call for Israel's destruction, and "to discipline" terrores from within his ranks. Contalence. building cannot be undateral If bracks are to be a monced of their enemy's just demands, they must be awared that their own are not being

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Ammhain

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

(Continued from page 1) the hard way that providing the basic elements for any form of unity is not enough, but rather the people of con-cerned parties should have

Features

Majali: No return to past

the final say.

I am aware of some views which claim that Jordan's refusal to deal with the issue of confederation is caused by its refusal to accept an indepen-dent Palestinian entity. Of course such claims are false. Jordan has always demanded and stressed the necessity to enable Palestinians to decide

their own future. The concept of confedera-tion is not new. I personally remember that in the '70s I prepared a paper on the "United Arab Kingdom", which was very similar to the con-cept of confederation. Back then, the idea was not accepted by the Palestinian side as they believed that it would affect their aspiration to establish a future Palestinian state.

This leads me to discuss the elements needed by both sides to prepare (for positive future ties). First of all we need cooperation which would prepare us to face the requirements of peace, and which would guarantee accomplishing our common interest, in regard to both the regional and international challenges.

We have to note that Jordan and the Palestinian authority have been proceeding with the peace process at the same time. The Palestine Liberation Organisation signed the declaration of principles on 13 September 1993, while we have signed the common agenda on 14 September 1993. Jordan has signed the peace treaty after five months of the May 4 Cairo agreement. Due to the Cairo agreement and the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, a lot of work with Israel remains to be done. While the Palestinian authority is negotiating with Israel to fulfill its rights, to practice its sovereignty in order to complete the structure of its authority. Jordan is negotiating with Israel to restore its rights and to organise bilateral relations on an equal basis like any two states en-

joying full sovereignty. This highlights the importance of agreement between Jordan and the Palestinian authority on many current issues that cannot be postponed. Other issues that remain to be dealt with also concern Israel and Egypt, as well as other Arab states.

Jordan must reach an agreement with the Palestinian authority on the issue of displaced persons. Jordan has accepted to postpone the matter until the final negotiations have begun. Nevertheless, this issue has a sizeable impact on demographics in both Jordan and Israel, and extends to Egypt as well. The three Arab parties should be able to come to a common agreement before the meetings of the quadripartite committee with Israel. As for the (1948) refugees, it is the most crucial issue which both Jordanian and Palestinian parties should begin tackling right away. Negotiations on this issue will relate directly to Israel, and may be related to the rest of the international community within the peace process. There are other sides concerned with the issue of refugees within the transitional stage that should be tackled. For example in the issue of UNRWA moving to Gaza, we have to make sure that an institution like that maintains its work towards the rights of the re-

As to economic coordination between Jordan and the PNA, which is very important, we know that the Palestinians have reached accords with the Israelis in Paris on 29 April 1994 and again under the Cairo agreement of 4 May 1994. The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, on the other hand, in-cluded paragraphs whose aim is to reach bilateral agreements. The Palestinian National Authority and the Jordanian government will both find themselves entering economic arrangements with Israel while they have not yet reached agreement between themselves. Why? There have been several attempts to establish an eco-

nomic relationship on strong bases. We have also worked to maintain this tie within the outline of the Jordanian-Israeii negotiations in order to support an independent Palestinian economy, separate from Israel's, and to forge a parmership with Jordan which would be beneficial to have a local and the local cial to both sides. To Jordan the improvement in and independence of the Palestinian economy will be beneficial to the Jordanian economy itself. I do not want to go through

the reasons that have hindered us from completing our economic talks, even though we are on track in the fields of banks and monetary systems. But there remains an urgent need to define our economic relationship as a

There are the regional dimensions that we should address together, especially in the economic field. There are two important elements in this regard. The first is that any new regional order has to take into account Jordan and the Palestinian territories. The second is that any rela-tionship between Israel and Jordan cannot be forged without considering the link in between which is the West

Both the Jordanian government and the Palestinian authority should agree and organise their relations regarding the sectoral fields which will be transferred from Israel to the Palestinian National Authority. Such sectoral fields include education, health, legislation, property, taxes, and many others in which Jordan has also shown great flexibility towards our brothers, especially during the occupation.

We are all aware that Israel gives the issue of security a reat importance. We may find that because of its securpriorities, Israel finds it necessary not to give the Palestinians their rights. That has been clear in the Israeli policy towards the Palestinian labour force working in Israel, postponing withdraw-al from Palestinian cities, and the limitations against the Palestinians to move freely in their territories. That is why the Jordanian and Palestinian sides are called upon to put in place a security scenario which would help both parties to negotiate in an atmosphere of stability.

Allow me to say that Jordan can never be an obstacle towards establishing a Palestinian authority or to accomplishing the dreams of the Palestinian people. Unfortunately, we occasionally hear statements claiming that Jordan, due to its historical relations with the Palestinian territories, seeks to deal with the Palestinian situation as it was during 1950-1967. Such claims are false. Jordan disintegrated itself administrativefrom the West Bank and there is no reason for such Palestinian worry. The only way to restore the Palestinian rights over their land and to determine their own future is by ending the Israeli occupa-

tion in all its forms. The basic aim of the negotiations is to achieve that goal. Due to Israeli ambitions beyond the peace process, and because of the complications caused by the occupation during the past two decades, the Palestinian track was divided in two stages: transitional, and final. In Jordan we are aware of how difficult that separation has been and will be since the two stages cannot be clearly divided. But we believe that complications could be solved, and that the Israelis would eventually be convinced that inflexibility in accepting a comprehensive and just solution will only hinder their peaceful goals. Now we obseve a change in their attitude. Such a thing was bound to happen due to the dynamic negotiating process, and because inflexibility only leads to more problems between both parties. The aim is to reach an agreement parallel to the Jordanian-Israeli treaty. By clearing the Israeli position towards the final solution for the Palestinian track, the region would be able to reach the hoped for peace with all its national and regional aspects. If we assume that Israel is to reach by 1995 a peaceful solution with Syria and Lebanon, the success of such peace treaties will remain at a low ebb until the Palestinian people has accomplished its aspirations As for Jerusalem, Jordan's

position has always been clear in playing its role as a guardian of the holy places until the Palestinian National Authority is able to take over. With all due respect this issue is not for the Islamic Summit to decide on. On the other hand, the Islamic Summit could contribute in funding Arab housing pro-jects in Jerusalem or the maintenance of the holy shrines, and in making funds available to schools and industries. Our aim is to maintain the Arab identity of Jerusalem. Regarding the right of guardianship of the holy places, it remains not negotiable. Therefore we hope that our brothers would have the situation and understand the situation and

'Dangerous liaisons' — why Arab directors are being forced abroad

By Philip Sweeney

THE 18th annual Cairo Film Festival, which started last week, has a new prize to award this year. Dedicated to the Nobel Prize-winning novelist, Naguib Mahfouz, who was attacked with a knife by Muslim fanatics in October, it will go to the best film "calling for the abandonment of violence and terrorism and for liberty and equal-

It's a timely morale booster, because the film industry of the Arab World is firmly in the sights of the fundamental-ists. In Egypt, the latest film by the country's most emi-nent director, Yousef Cha-hine, is currently the subject of a court action seeking to ban it for alleged profanity. In Algeria, many film-makers have joined the exodus of media people to France, Belgium, Tunisia, even England, over the past two years of intense violence.

"TV people were targeted because until recently all media were state-controlled and they were seen as representatives of the government," a young Algerian TV journalist, currently granted refugee status in London, told me. "A year ago, the director general of Algerian television was shot dead and three more technicians this year. Many people like me are living clandestinely in Europe.'

Tunisia's film festival, the Journées Cinématographiques de Carthage, precedes Carthage by two weeks and is a better showcase for Arab and African art film than the flashier, more international Cairo festival. Due to a wellentrenched tradition of secularism, a tough and ubiquitous police force, and hundreds of pre-emptive arrests, fundamentalism presents few public problems in

Much interest was generated by the Algerian director Merzak Allouache's film Bab El Oued City, which won second prize at Carthage. It describes the ominous rise of the bearded zealots of the Islamic Salvation Front in the late 1980s. Worn down by incidents such as the anonymous delivery of a shroud and cake of mortuary soap to his house, the film's central France, and the director himself has done the same.

"Film cameras are targeted essentially by association with TV news cameras," says Allouache. "People have come up to me in the street, thrown coats over the camera



Scene from Allouache's Bab Al Oued City

and said: 'No filming here.' Other crew have been told: 'This is your last warning'." So, as the fundamentalist murders move from liberal target to liberal target — a dentist with her throat cut, a pop singer shot in the head -Allouache has opted for safe-

The Emigrant, the latest film by Chahine, opened the Carthage festival, and immediately afterwards went on public showing in Tunis, crowds — as it has done in Egypt since its release. Starring the glamorous soap star Yusra, and Michel Piccoli in a voluminous Father Christmas beard, The Emigrant tells the epic story of a country boy's quest to bring his

manufacturing traditions

have undergone a radical

shakeup in recent years. And

in a second revolution of

sorts, Rolls-Royce's parent,

Vickers Plc, is seeking a part-

nership with another, as-yet

The global recession,

which hit Rolls-Royce buyers

hard, forced the changes.

The company's payroll was halved. Costs and production

time fell dramatically with

help from Japanese-style

manufacturing practices. Some parts that used to be

unidentified automaker.

tribe out of the desert into agricultural prosperity in Pharaonic Egypt. It is loosely based on the story of the Old Testament prophet Joseph, who is also revered in Islam, and this fact is at the root of Chanine's own brush with fundamentalism, at present non-violent, but still insidious. A month ago, a privately initiated court action sought to reverse the film's authorisation for public performance. The case is cursideration is given to a de-

Chahine, an urbane, charming and humourous man, was much in demand at Carthage, and I eventually may get a rejection by an

fence move to have the judge

ran him to ground in his hotel

"When I wrote the first

script of The Emigrant," he said, "I wanted to base it on the story of Joseph, which is very inspiring, very appropriate for the present time in Egypt where there is a lot of despair. I consulted professionals in religious affairs and they said I should not personalise a prophet... it's traditionally forbidden in Islam. I thinking about why and eventually I realised when you read, your imagination creates the character according to your own ideas and tastes, but in cinema the director crystallises

audience... I thought, even commercially it's not a very good idea to have a character the people will not identify with. So I was convinced, and I wrote a new script with a character named Ram and with a number of differences from Joseph.

Having obtained the appropriate authorisations for his new screenplay, including that of the government censor who accompanies the shoot demanding pointless little cuts, Chahine made The Emigrant, which came out at the end of September. Six weeks later. the writ was issued by a lawyer "pushed by some insignificant little journalist."
"I think it's the fact that

The Emigrant was sucil blockbuster that triggereds affair," Chahine told \$ "Put very simply, the i damentalists don't like . fact that 600,000 people h; seen my film and come smiling — their philosopia sad and grey; they feed people being as desperate

Is he apprehensive? ""N I'm taking precautions. basically I'm optimistich happen to believe in Es tian justice, and 95 per c of Egyptians don't believ this extremism. Tomorrow still there, if you'll excuse sounding like Scari

The Independent.

Even at stodgy old Rolls-Royce, the times are changing

By Dirk Beveridge The Associated Press

CREWE, England — Each time Dennis Jones finishes handcrafting a radiator for the front of a Rolls-Royce, he initials it with a double-D that looks something like a Texas cattle brand.

the road, if the radiator requires repairs, it will return to Jones and he will fix it. It's his radiator, after all. He dismisses a suggestion that a machine could do his

Once the Rolls-Royce is on

"It has to be done by hand

to get its original design, fin-ish and shape," said Mr. Jones, who has signed more than 5.000 radiators over the past quarter century. This is the craftsmanship that makes Rolls-Royce the epitome of huxury for the world's super-rich. Who else could afford to shell out

\$149,900 for a bottom-of-theline Rolls-Royce silver dawn? or \$347,200 for a top-of-theline limousine? But while the 90-year-old Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Ltd. and its handmade cars are as quintessentially British as the

queen and afternoon tea, its

made by Rolls-Royce are now bought from other comtion is still apparent on every inch of its cars.

made from 10 to 12 hides per vehicle. Workers carefully match the leather before it is dyed. Then meticulously study each hide to decide where to cut each piece. Trim for the carpeting is

from around the cow's spine. But it must come from the same animals whose skin is used in the seats, to make an

But the Rolls-Royce tradi-

Their leather seats are

made from less-fine leather

deal match.

That will require hundreds of millions of dollars, money

owners can have their own individual touches. One American customer insisted on shipping over hides he chose himself. A Scottish customer used tartans between cowhide panels.

Wooden interior panels are selected with care and cut precisely through the grain to make mirror images of pat-

Customers can choose whatever items of comfort and extravagance they desire, like a fine-cut glass set for a back seat bar, or tiny televisions that fit into backs of the front seat headrests. But such detail may not be

enough. Auto analyst Nick Cunningham of the London Brokerage Barclays de Zoete Wedd believes Rolls-Royce needs to modernise its line that now is about 12 years "They need to develop a new car," Mr. Cunningham

said. "They need a new drive train. They need a new body and chassis, as well. Every year that passes, your vehicle gets older and it gets harder to sell to people.

prospective partner.

the character for you. So you

In recent interviews, Rolls-Royce executives said no decision had been made about who the investor will be, playing down speculation by analysts in London that Mercedes-Benz will get the

Talk of a partner for Rolls-

Royce has stirred concerns in

England that the company could be taken over. Just as the last big British-owned mass producer of cars, Rover, was purchased by BMW of Germany earlier this year. But Rolls-Royce insists it will still be Rolls-Royce. Whatever form the part-

nership takes, it will force the automaker to adapt to the realities of the 1990s for a second time. In the early part of the

decade, Rolls-Royce had to contend with the worldwide economic bust. Although Rolls-Royce owners are often multimillionaires who tend to own more than one home and an average of five cars, it turned out they weren't recession-proof.

During the boom of the mid- and late 1980s, worl-

the company expects from its dwide sales of Rolls-Royces and the company's Bentley line of cars soared from around 2,200 a year to a peak have to wait. of 3,324 in 1990. But when the recession struck, sales plunged to 1,706 in 1991 and 1,375 in 1992, handing the

> Rolls-Royce executives took a hard look at their business. They revamped the entire manufacturing system by creating Japanese-style teams that work closely with each other than being directed by middle managers.

company losses estimated in

the hundreds of millions of

"As a traditional management business, we didn't encourage people to use as much initiative as we should have," said Charles Matthews, managing director of op-erations. "The managers managed and the workers worked. We've eliminated much management. A lot of the management ideas are attributed to the Japanese;

up to three days making a front seat for a Rolls-Royce. If he was working on a black

One worker used to spend

sense.'

seat and the workers 31 next stage of product needed a tan seat, they wo

Now, seats are made in day by three workers shar the task. This way, they be much more responsive the needs of colleagues v install the seats.

In all, Rolls-Royce ma 4,500 changes. "They mig be small individually, but t incremental effect is ac: iutely huge." Mr. Matth: His remarks echo words.

founder Henry Rolls that : posted throughout the tory: "Small things ma perfection, but perfection no small thing."

The changes have allow Rolls-Royce to cut the tist of producing one car from days to 28 days. At any giv time, 200 cars are in t production pipeline, do-from 600 four years ago. To enables Rolls-Royce to sa millions because expensi parts don't sit around the other view is it's common weeks or meaths.

> They've also lowered company's break-even poil from 2,800 cars a year

Hidden hangings in Japan spark bitter row

By Eugene Moosa Reuter

TOKYO — Imagine spending nine years on death row and then having only hours to prepare for your hanging.
That was how two murderers went to their deaths in

Japan's first executions in a The hangings last week set off an outcry against capital punishment and the secrecy with which criminals go to the

gallows.
"Please come and pick up the body," said a telegramme

from Tokyo prison authorities to the stepfather of one of the hanged convicts, 44year-old Yukio Ajima. The Justice Ministry's

long-standing policy is to make no public announcement or comment out of deference to the privacy of the "It is our standing rule not

to confirm or deny executions," a ministry spokesman

Ajima, convicted of the 1977 triple murder of his girlfriend, sister and aunt, exhausted his appeals in 1985. The other convict hanged in northern Japan was Kazumi Sasaki, 66, who stabbed to death an innkeeper and passerby in 1984 while on parcle.

He was sentenced to death in

The twin executions, the first since November 1993. were a blow to the anticapital punishment lobby, including a 103-member parliamentary group from all

Before four people were hanged in November 1993, a four-year hiatus had raised the hope of human rights groups that Japan was effectively halting the death

The latest executions came just five days after the prime minister's office issued the results of its survey saying 74

per cent of Japanese supported the death penalty. The hangings were also carried out against a backdrop of rising violent crime in Japan, which has led senior police to warn that the coun-

try's society is under threat.
"These latest executions were politically timed," said Makoto Iwai, a spokesman for Amnesty Internationl's Japan chapter. "We are also

very frustrated at the

the hangings.
"It is absurd to argue that the Japanese people support the death penalty when the barbaric nature of judicial killing has been hidden from public scrutiny," Mr. Iwai

The Justice Ministry re-

fuses to discuss why particu-

lar convicts are selected for execution. Nor are outside

witnesses allowed to observe

Mr. Iwai and the parliamentary group accused the Justice Ministry of arbitrarily selecting the two -- 59 others are on death row and some have waited longer than ni: years — as a political me sage that Japan will carry o

the death sentence.
"They not only make ye wait for a very long time. Ajima's lawyer Junkic! Kuroda said, "they do n give any hints whatsoever a. out when your last da dawns.

In the most recent accoun of a hanging in Japan, pui lished last year by a retire warden who witnessed one: the 1960s, the convicted ma had no idea his last day ha

arrived until several hees before hanging.

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No economic role for Israel, Syrian oil minister says

aturday it was premature to ilk of economic relations ith a predatory Israel as ing as the Jewish state conaued to occupy Arab territory Syrian Oil and Mineral Re-Durces Minister Nadir abulsi told reporters after a seeting of Arab oil ministers Cairo that the Arab states 10uld first integrate with ach other before they arted talking about a Mid-

"We think that the term fiddle East market is against as Arab countries. It is omination of Israel over rab resources, especially in ie oil sector," he said.

le East market.

"Talking about peace at e present time, when our rritory is still occupied, is remanure." he added.

His remarks echoed his seech in the brief open part the meeting, where he also peated Syria's position that wanted a just, comprehenve and permanent peace inuding full Israeli withdrawal

other areas. In his speech he said the Middle East market idea. much vaunted by the United States and other Western states, was a cover to tighten

Israeli control over Arab

wealth and to deprive the

Arabs of their resources. We are working on a single Arab stand against what we now see in reality," he added later, referring to the economic fragmentation of the Arab World.

Mr. Nabusli did not specify any projects he considered harmful to Arab interests, but OAPEC members Egypt and Qatar are both studying the possibility of exporting

natural gas to Israel. Egypt says it will sell its gas to the Jewish state as long as such a project is economically viable. It is also studying projects for exports to the Palestinian territories and

Qatar has ambitious plans to export gas from one of the biggest gas fields in the

Qatari Oil Minister Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Attiyah told reporters after the meeting that it did not take political considerations into account in its economic planning.

'We are obviously a gas producing country and we're interested in developing gas and in diversifying markets. We have concentrated on the South East Asian market. As for other markets, they obviously have to be economic and give economic advantages," he said.

Economic projects are not treated from a political standpoint," he added.

The Qatari News Agency quoted Mr. Attiyah as saying in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation Friday that he supported Iraq's return to the oil mar-

But, asked to confirm this shortly before the meeting opened, Mr. Attiyah said: "Did I say that?... no, someone was asking and this has become a very classical

answer that OPEC has decided, when Iraq comes to the market, to have an extraordinary meeting to discuss the situation.

All but one oil minister from OAPEC members Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Bahrain, Libya, Iraq. Algeria, Egypt, Syria were present at the meeting. Libyan Minister Abdullah Al Badri pulled out at the last

Iraqi Oil Minister Safa Hadi Jawad Al Habubi, whose country is till barred from exporting oil, said before the meeting he was sure United Nations trade sanctions would be relaxed next year to allow Iraqi oil exports back onto the market.

The ministers approved an OAPEC budget of 1.361 million Kuwait dinars (\$4.54 million) for 1995, discussed joint projects, affiliated companies and institutions and agreed to extend for two years support for the Baghdad-based Arab

Trade envoys fail to choose new WTO chief

GENEVA (R) — Major trading powers failed Friday to agree on who will be the first head of the new World Trade Organisation (WTO), despite high-level political contacts over the past few days, trade officials said.

But they pledged to try to reach a consensus so as to announce a choice among the three regional candidates by

Italy's former Trade Minister Renato Ruggiero — backed by the European Union (EU) — still leads the pack, ahead of former Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and South Korea's Trade Minister Kim Chul-su, according to unofficial scorecards.

Washington and Latin American countries strongly support Mr. Salinas, while Asian countries have lined up behind Mr. Kin in the race for the high-profile post available from Jan. 1.

Andras Szepesi, the Hungarian trade ambassador who is conducting behindthe-scenes consultations to choose the new WTO chief, told senior envoys certain progress had been made.

But at the moment there is not yet a basis for a credible consensus around a successful candidate," he told top delegates.

Mr. Szepesi was speaking to an informal, private session held on the fringes of the two-day annual meeting of the 124 member states of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Trade envoys agreed Thursday that the WTO would be launched on Jan. I. although the GATT will contimue to coexist for a one-year transition period.

Peter Sutherland, directorgeneral of the GATT whose contracts runs to June 30, has refused to say whether he would stay on as caretaker WTO chief pending a final

Jean-Pierre Leng, EU trade ambassador to the GATT, told reporters after Friday's session: "We continue to believe there will be a consensus by year-end."

He said it was regrettable that no consensus had emerged, adding: "We think it would be a bad signal not have a director-general when the new WTO starts up in January." Mr. Ruggiero commands a

very large majority, according to the EU trade embassdor, who declined to give figures.
"A very large majority

does not mean a consensus yet, but it could permit building a consensus around him," Mr. Leng added.

GLASBERGEN "

THE BETTER HALF,

Unscramble these four Jumble one letter to each square, to for

DEGAL

REQUE

GLEMIT

BOLIFE

Print answer here: A

Clinton urges hemispheric 'partnership for prosperity'

American trade summit Friday by calling for a new "partnership for prosperity" in the western hemisphere involving the free flow of goods from Alaska to Argen-

In a speech to Florida political and civic leaders and others who helped organise the summit, Mr. Clinton said expanded trade was the key to freedom and economic opportunity for all the peoples of the Americas.

But he drew his loudest applause and only standing ovation when he referred to Cuba, the only nation in the hemisphere with a nondemocratically elected leader - Fidel Castro - and the only U.S. neighbour not rep-

resented in Miami. "We support the Cuban people's desire for peaceful democratic change. And we hope by the next time we have one of these summits...

a democratic Cuba will take

its place at the table of na-

tions," Mr. Clinton said. The U.S.-sponsored summit of 34 North and South American nations is the first gathering of its kind since 1967, when then-president Lyndon Johnson met other hemisphere leaders in Punte dei Este, Uruguay.

Mr. Clinton proposed it as part of an administration effort to change the focus of U.S. foreign policy from the security-first stress of the cold war era to a new emphasis on economic growth resulting

from trade and investment. It is intended to build on the success of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which has cluding Latin America. led to vastly increased com-Canada and the Caribbean

MIAMI (R) — President merce between the United Clinton launched a pan-States, Canada and Mexico. Taking a veiled jibe at independent political leader Ross Perot, an outspoken opponent who claimed NAF-

TA would lead to a mass exodus of U.S. jobs, Mr. Clinton said "there has been no giant sucking sound, ex-cept for American goods going across the border." "History has given the peo-

ples of the Americas a dazzling opportunity to build a community of nations committed to the values of liberty and the promise of prosperity," he said. "Now, over the next three days, the 34 democratically-elected leaders of our hemisphere will gather to begin to seize this opportunity.

Mr. Chinton said he and the other leaders would talk about how to lower trade barriers, strengthen democratic institutions and improve the quality of life throughout the hemisphere.
U.S. officials said the

meeting was expected to produce agreement in principle to create a free trade 20ne throughout the hemisphere by the end of the next de-

it was also expected to bring agreement to cooperate in fighting corruption, terrorism and narcotics trafficking. they said. "If we're successful," Mr.

Clinton said, "the summit will lead to more jobs, opportunity and prosperity for our children and the generations to come.

We will have launched a new partnership for prosperbe said. U.S. sales to other countries in the hemisphere, in-

billion in 1993, 38 per cent of all U.S. sales abroad.

Administration officials say U.S. exports to Latin America alone accounted for 1.3 million jobs last year, and produced a trade surplus of

more than \$4 billion. Mr. Clinton's effort to eliminate all trade barriers from the Arctic to the southern tip of South America is not universally popular within his Democratic Party.

In a nine-page letter to the president this week, the Democratic leader of the House of Representatives, Richard Gephardt, called on him to keep environmental, labour and other issues at the forefront when negotiating with his Latin American counterparts.

Mr. Gephardt, calling the November elections that turned control of the House and Senate over to the Ropublicans "a wake-up call." said voters "told us that we had strayed from recognising what our priority must be: Improving the economic lives of working people."

"We must do all we can to ensure that we do not have another NAFTA-like debate that divides the Democratic Party," he said.

Mr. Clinton was expected to face criticism from some Latin leaders for the rising anti-immigrant tide in the United States as symbolised by the success of proposition 187 in California.

That measure, which would deny educational and medical benefits to illegal immigrants, was overwhelmingly approved in last month's mid-term election despite Mr. Clinton's staunch opposi-

Exports lift Canadian economy

OTTAWA (AFP) - A continuing export boom com-bined with a five-year high in company profits helped Canada's economy grow by more than one per cent in the third quarter, the government has reported. Statistics Canada pointed out, however, that virtually all of the growth was recorded in August while it was unchanged in September. The government agency said, overall, the Canadian economy grew at an annual rate of 4.7 per cent in the third quarter of this year, a sharp slowdown compared to the second quar-ter growth rate of 6.7 per cent. Analysts said the latest figures indicated that the

Canadian economy would

round out the year with a

growth rate of at least four

By Glasbergen

per cent.

"The aspirin must have gotten lost in

my body. I still have a headache, but. I've lost all feeling in my toes!"

WHAT THE THEF GOT AT THE COMPUTER STORE

Now arrange the circled letters to

Jumbles: VERVE VITAL HECTIC TARGET Why magnets are found on reingerators -THEY'RE ATTRACTIVE

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: There are no exact aspects today so you may want to turn to handling your practical affairs which can go smoothly as long as you don't appear to be too self-seeking. Make phone calls early to dispot tensions.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Avoid tension in the outside world and get busy keeping promises you have made to others. Come to better understanding with your mate. TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) If you depend more on an outside

partner, you can bandle difficult situations very easily, so don't run off on a tangent of some sort. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Keep busy at tasks and you come out on top, but be sure you don't take on additional expenses. Don't lose

your temper around loved ones.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Avoid an irate partner today and enjoy yourself. Concentrate on pleasures you want to enjoy with close friends. Show that you have posse and tact. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Forget tasks which are annoying, enjoy

the long-time pleasures at home with your loved ones and relieve tension. Catch up on worthwhile reading. VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a good day to find the right solution to whatever has been mystifying to youlor a long time.

Make a copy of whatever you write. LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is an ideal day to concentrate on money and property matters. Get advice from an older person about a new endeavour. State. sour mind clearly.

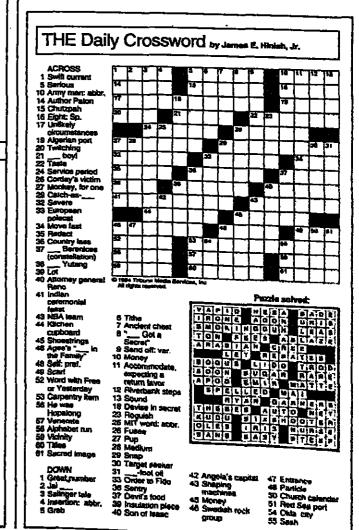
of the past for the solution to today's problems. Don't waste time with those who gossip and spread your secrets. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Discuss a project with an expert before going on with it any further. Your mate can help to make your life much easier in the future.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Rely on your experiences

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are not thinking quite straight now, not a good friend can be helpful, so listen to the advice given to you at this time.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be most efficient at handling outside activities since they can bring in fine benefits. Enjoy some hobby in the evening with close friends.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Try a different route where some difficult situation is concerned, and get good results. Avoid an irate friend who is out for blood. Birthstone of December: Turquoise - Zircon



Japan combats strong yen in push or 2.5% growth next year -OECD

untry in profound change, struggling hard against the e of the yen to emerge pm recession with growth of Der cent this year and 2.5 1r cent next year, an OECD port has showed.

The government must ess ahead quickly with degulation in the interests of panese consumers as well of domestic and foreign oducers, the Organisation Economic Cooperation Development (OECD)

'This was "essential" and ght require a "different" proach based on creation c a "powerful independent gamsation," as suggested i the so-called Hiraiwa recrt, to keep pressure on mistries, the OECD sug-

Sut big packages to stimuy nao causeo j substantial deterioration s government finances."

The central and local govment deficits had risen by per cent of gross domestic aduct (GDP) in 1993, and : expected to rise by other two points in 1994 to arly six per cent of GDP. The restructuring of com-

ues and rise of the yen had

and in 1993 "the growth of exports fell significantly" and Japanese firms "continued to lose international competi-

Japanese exporters had reduced export prices by eight per cent to absorb two thirds of the rise of the yen, so the share of Japanese exports in world trade in current prices had continued to increase and import penetration fell to less than it had been at the peak in 1990.

Hence the current account surplus in yen fell only slightly last year and the trade surplus in dollars rose.

ness of the Japanese mar-

per cent this year and then to 0.4 per cent next year from 1.0 per cent in 1993 and 1.6

But in the first half of 1994 the volume of goods imports rose rapidly, ensuring a marked increase in the open-

The trade surplus, which had risen to \$131.4 billion in

1993 from \$117.6 billion in 1992, would fall slightly to \$128.8 billion this year and again to \$120.1 billion next

Inflation would fall to 0.6

conditions in Japan were not so good as in other OECD

ment, which had been 2.2 per cent in 1992, would rise to 2.5 per cent in 1993, 2.9 in 1994 and 3.0 per cent in 1995.

After two years of recession, the economy had shown signs of bottoming out in the first half of this year and appeared to have begun a 'gradual recover", but a rise of the yen might "force companies to restructure their balance sheets further".

The recovery would probably not take Japan to the high growth rates of the last decade, but one way of achieving "significant gains in living standards" would be to reform further the law and taxes applying to-land. Prices remained "exceptionally high" and housing

countries. Reform would promote investment in housternal surplus. The 119-page report referred repeatedly to the changes wrought on the economy by

duction overseas and increase purchases of imported com-

ponents." But "a stronger yen would probably result in further loses of export market

shares. The OECD increased its forecast for growth this year to 1.0 per cent from 0.8 per cent in June, mainly because of firm consumer demand and an easing of monetary

The discount rate is at a record low point of 1.75 per cent. This had helped banks to strengthen their finances, but although the problem of bad loans was no longer de-teriorating, "it will lake some time before the banks return to a more healthy financial

position. But the four packages to boost the economy by 10 per ing thereby reducing the ex- cent of GDP were expected to drive up gross debt to 83 per cent of GDP by 1995. markedly above the OECD average". Although the net situation was stronger, Japan faced "huge future pension

> population was ageing. Ministers had to ensure that there was no "loss of control over government deficits in the medium term."

the rise of the yen, warning that "the major risk to the emerging recovery is the value of the yen.

It said: "So far, in addition commitments" because the

to reducing employment in the exposed sector, comper cent in 1992. But the rate of unemploypanies' response to the rising

Save water... Every drop counts!





Andy Capp



Business & Finance

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A review

of economic news from the Arabic press

Watch out!

inspector's

* Produce retailers hire

lottery sellers, kiosk own-

ers and other street ven-

dors to give them early

warning if they sight gov-

ernment inspectors or

even the car of the Minis-

try of Supply. Once noti-

fied, produce retailers

quickly change the price

card on vegetables and

fruits to reflect

government-fixed prices.

This latest trick is in addi-

tion to having under-

ground or roof facilities to

hide deluxe quality for

higher prices (Al Dus-

★★ The Arab Maritime

Bridge Company will be

buying high-speed boats

soon. The boats will be

serving the ports of Aqaba, Nuweibeh, Sharm

Al Sheikh and any other

ports on the Red Sea.

According to a company

official, the boats, that can

carry up to 250 passengers

with their handbags only,

will shorten the trip be-

tween Aqaba to Nuweibeh

to one hour. The official

said the opening of the

road of peace between

Aqaba-Bilat-Taba will

negatively affect the op-

But, he added, the com-

pany will diversify its acti-

vities into tourism and transport of goods and containers (Al Aswaq).

☆☆ Payments due to the Water Authority of Jordan

(WAJ) have reached about

which are owed by govern-

ment departments and the

rest by the public. The WAJ

provides water to 547,569

subscribers throughout the

Kingdom. Subscribers to the

water sanitation network tot-

★☆ Jordan's net foreign debt is expected to fall by 4.2 per

cent, to reach \$6.58 billion at

the end of this year, down

from \$6.87 billion at the end

of 1993. According to pre-

liminary figures from the

Ministry of Finance, the

Kingdom repaid a total of

\$570 million in instalments

and interest in 1994 (Al

☆☆ The Cairo Amman Bank

notified its shareholders that

the bank's capital was in-

creased by JD 1 million and

that the capital now stands at

JD 10 million, with a value of

JD 1 per share. Previously

each share was worth JD 5.

Based on the capital increase,

funded by the voluntary re-

serve, retained earnings and other reserves, shareholders registered on Nov. 15, 1994. were given a free share for

every share they held (Al

★★ Ready-Mix Concrete and Construction Supplies Com-

pany is a public shareholding

company under establish-

ment. An announcement cal-

led on the founding members to meet on Dec. 11, 1994, to

sign the articles of association

and the internal basic regula-

tions. Engineer Raja Khalil Al Alami is the head of the

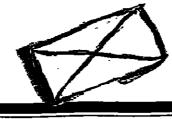
founding committee (Al

Ra'i).

al 124,037 (Al Ra'i).

erations of the company.

here



ispheric Osperity

ons, totalled about \$160 pullion in 1963. 18 bet cent of all t S vales abroad Administration officials say US exports to Latin America alone accounted for i s mallon jobe has year, and produced a trade surplus of

Mr. Canton's effort to chminate all trade battiers from the Arctic to the couthern top of South America is not uni-Certaily popular within his

he a muc page letter to the fur-sident, this week the Denny ratio leader of the House of Representatives Recland Cophards called on him to keep environmental labout and other issues at the forefront when negotiating with his Latin American commerciality.

Mi Gephardi calling the November elections that tained control of the House and Senate over to the Republicans "a wake up call." said voters "tald as that we had strayed from recognising what our month much Improving the economic lives of working people.

"We must do all we can to ensure that we do not have another NAPI Alike debate that divides the Democratic Party," he said

Mr. Clinton was expected to face emission from some Latin leaders for the rising anti-immigrant ticle in the United States as symbolised by the success of proposition 187 m Cablorna

That measure which would dony educational and medical benefits to they firm interioris, was everwhelmingis approved in last months mid-term election cospile Mr. Clinton's standard opposi-

SCOPE

IV, DECEMBER 11, 1994 ger Caron Agrico for 105

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a therman that have a consti sith it and futher Now was can aver in the firms January A. S. North and J. P. Stanford east can be belieful to be a come

Sauto to be an instantial their cast being in the benefits by methods in the control e titalities la differencia y clabiti ed, and get your to the terminal தமுக்கு பிர

₩ Having to close the accounts before the end of the year, the Jordan Electric Power Company urged its subscribers to settle their dues before the end of December. The company warned that failing to pay all outstanding amounts will force it to cut electricity lines to the defaulters (Sawt Al

** Royal Jordanian is selfsufficient in pilots, as it employs 400 pilots compared to only 58 pilots in 1975. Pilot Nasri Ijmean and others say salaries are below the acceptable level, especially when compared to other airlines (Sawt Al Shaab).

'Jordan-Israel peace no threat to Suez canal'

ISMAILIA, Egypt (R) — Egypt's 125-year-old Suez Canal faces greater competition from existing world trade routes than from plans for new transport networks following peace between Israel and Jordan, a senior official said on Saturday.

Mohammad Ezat Adel,

chairman of the Suez Canal

Authority, said new waterways or roads in the region could not challenge the canal's pre-eminent position as the main link between the Red Sea and the Mediterra-

Proposals for canals linking the Dead Sea with the Red Sea or Mediterranean would

Merrill Lynch: Asian markets to perform better in 1995

KUALA LUMPER (AFP) Asian stock markets are likely to perform better in 1995, international brokerage Merrill Lynch has predicted, saying that after China and India, Indonesia could emerge as the next favourite.

Uncertainty in global and other Asian markets could also benefit Singapore, which is likely to gain from broadbased earnings growth in banking, ship-repair, airlines, hotels, office property and retail next year, it said.

The forecast was done against a projected growth of 7.0-to-7.5 per cent for the 10 major Asian economies, not counting Japan, in 1995 and 1996, from 7.7 per cent in

Merrill Lynch said in its Asian economics strategy report released at a national economic outlook conference that slower growth in China's economy should be offset by continuing buoyant expansion in South East Asia.

"If investment flows are any indication, Indonesia could well emerge the region's strongest economy in 1995," it predicted. For its 1995 Asian market

strategy, Merrill Lynch has rated as positive Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand, negative for Hong Kong and Taiwan and neutral

for South Korea and the Phi-In the next 12-to-18 months, property-related earnings should do well in Malaysia, while financial sec-tor liberalisation could provide a third engine of growth for Singapore's economy, Merrill Lynch said.

In South Korea, margin expansion should see continuing strong earnings growth next year, while India's structural reforms are excted to start yielding tangible growth.

In terms of economic fundamentals, it rated as above average the markets of Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, average of India, Indonesia, South Korea, the Philippines, but a below average for Hong Kong and Taiwan. Merrill Lynch said proper-

ty prices were a major unown in Hong Kong, and earnings were slowing in at least two sectors: banking and property development. "The run-up to 1997 could

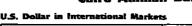
produce more political

wranglings with Beijing," it For Taiwan, it noted that although a breakthrough in mainland China policies could act as a key market

catalyst in 1995, growth prospects would remain unexciting in the near term.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank



Eureses	Ngu York. Close	New York Close
	Unit 8/12/94	Dar 9/12/94
Sterling Pound	1.5636	1.5600
Deutsche Mark	1.5770	1-5770
Swiss Franc	1.3568	1.8360
French Franc	5.4140	5.4165
Japanese Ven	100.55	100.08
European Curreny Unit	1.2085	1.2120

LSD Per STG. preprint Opening in \$100 p.m. GAT

Eurocurrency Interest Ra	C65		Date: 9/12/1994					
Correacy	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 ATTHS	12 MTHS				
U.S. Dollar	5.43	6.72	6.56	7.06				
Sterling Pound	5.93	6.25	6.75	7.25				
Deutsche Mark	5.12	5.12	5.25	5.50				
Swiss Franc	3.81	4.00	4.15	4.56				
French Franc	5.31	5.56	5.75	6.18				
Japanese Yen	2.18	2.18	2.51	2.56				
European Currency Unit	5.93	6.09	6-18	6-68				

stral Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 10/12/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7020	0.7040
Sterling Pound	1.0939	1.0994
Deutsche Mark	0.4445	0.4467
Swiss Franc	0.5250	0.5276
French Franc	0.1297	0.1303
Japanese Yen	0.7002	0.7037
Dutch Guilder	0.3969	0.3989
Swedish Krona	*****	2297648
(telian Lira -	0.0437	0.0435
Belgian Franc	******	484944

Pcr 100					
Other Carrencies	Date: 10/12/1994				
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahraini Dinar	1.8460	1.8620			
Lebanese Lira	0.041425	0.042745			
Sandi Riyal	0.1860	0.1879			
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3030	0.3600			
Qatari Riyal	0.1916	0.1929			
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150			
Omani Riyal	1.8060	: 8240			
UAE Dirham	0.1905	0.1915			
Greek Drachma	0.2755	0.3245			
Cypriot Pound	1.3925	1.5135			
Bee 100					





be used only for power gen-eration and irrigation, he

added.
Mr. Adel told Reuters the Suez Canal faced greater threats from land trade routes further afield, such as Siberian and Chinese rail links carrying goods from the

far east to Europe. He said shippers were also considering using icebreakers to open all-year Arctic shipping routes linking the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean. Now the routes are navigable only summer, he said.

three per cent in the first nine months of 1994 to \$1.421 billion. Canal authorities blame changing patterns in world trade but say they are well-placed to capitalise on increased regional trade following progress in the Middle Suez Canal revenues fell East peace process.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170 ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 10/12/1994

COMPANY'S NAME TRADED VOLUME JD PREV. CLOSING PRICE CLOSING PRICE TRADED 77,470 184.250 184.250 10,743 4.550 4.430 398 1.590 1.590 ARAB BANK JORDAN NATIONAL BANK MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK 2.980 5.550 3.030 1.660 3.750 3.650 5.000 10,430 11,080 27,218 2.980 5.540 3.000 THE HOUSING BANK THE HOUSING MAINT BANK
JORDAN GULF BANK
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK 9.074 1.680 JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT 14,870 3.630 5.00D 3.720 UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT BUSINESS BARK JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK BEIT ELMAL SAVINGGINVESTMENT FOR HOUSING AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN 4.950 3.270 1.540 3.830. 1.770 4.900 3.210 500 1,370,226 1.530 766 22,997 9,946 63,612 1,345 16,800 3.830 1.720 1.560 PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK. JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER /NEW 13,350 6.390 1.520 5.750 5.190 1.520 6.040 5.190 JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES 227 3,250 2.500 1.360 1.240 1.060 0.820 11.700 2.500 4,780 1,356 3,010 2.490 1.340 1.210 1.040 0.800 MATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER
MACHINARY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'I 700 200 7,900 2,250 19,552 11.250 2.480 JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'I
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINARY 3,000 15,939 10,077 45,392 5,388 3.370 2.860 2.670 3.370 2.860 2.650 3,882 4,140 9.260 7.400 9.240 7.200 420 575 JORDAN TANNING
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL 4.950 8.100 5.870 2.910 2.750 4.950 8.100 1,506 8,910 5.620 2.880 2.710 1.020

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ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING 119,786 1,584 5,991 21.422 2.200 ARAB INVESTMENT & INERNATIONAL TRADE ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY 1,000 LIVESTOCK & POULTRY ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING MATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY JORDAN ROCKMOOL INDUSTRIES JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCE/JIMCO JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS KAWTHER INVESTMENT UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES 2,500 JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.

GRAND TOTAL 1,627,850 2,776,286

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET

Oman expects reforms to spur investment influ

Gulf state of Oman expects more than \$2 billion in pri-vate investment to be pumped into its economy over the next three years following sweeping economic reforms.

Around 40 per cent of the funds will come from foreigners seeking to take advantage of new incentives and cheap energy to enter joint industrial projects, said Mahmud Al Jarwani, director of the Muscat stock exchange.

Mr. Jarwani, in a tele-phone interview with AFP, said the government had decided to permit foreign investors to own up to 65 per cent of projects, the first country in the oil-rich region to do so.

"We have completed all feasibility studies related to new projects in infrastructure and other fields to be set up in participation with the private sector. The projects are now ready for investment and they will attract around one billion riyals (\$2.6 billion) in three years," he said.

"We expected such investments to be fully covered given the high domestic liquidity and the incentives we have introduced. Around 300-400 million riyals (\$780-\$1.04 billion) are expected to come from foreigners," he pointed out. Mr. Jarwani spoke a day

after Oman hosted its first international investment conference that attracted more than 600 delegates from Japan, France, the United States, Britain, Gulf nations and other countries. The two-day conference covered papers detailing the

new projects and the reforms launched by the government three years ago to revive its economy that has been hurt

The reforms include p tisations, giving greate cess to foreign inves freeing interest rates, se up more industrial zone: introducing more incer, like extending tax exem periods. Five key public lities have already been off and more will be p

Oman, which is no OPEC member, prod around 800,000 barrels day of crude and weat prices have created a pu tent deficit in its budge

This year, it was force cut spending by arounper cent to reduce the si fall, which was projected nearly \$760 million. "The conference was

cessful by all standards. participants have been formed about the proand the new economic cies of the sultanate," Jarwani said. "We exper results to emerge soon. Officials said the new

tures involved two electr, plants in Salalah and Minz sewage station in Muscat cost of around \$599 million similar project in Salalah cost of \$130 million, a million petrochemical deplex and road projects. The expected \$2.6 bil

in investments do not incl. a gas liquefaction plant cost of up to \$9 billion another ambitious projecbuild a midwater pipeline supply natural gas to India a cost of more than \$5 bill Officials have said both iects would be open to le and foreign private investi In Gulf press remarks, Jarwani said private inv-

ments were projected reach \$390 million in 1994 Muscat, official sources s they expected around \$ billion in 1995 alone.

JORDAN WARKET PLACE

1.030 7.000 0.960 1.410

4.300 1.570 0.830 2.050 2.820

1.850 4.210

7.000

54,484 350

2,125 13,927

3,113 2,704 6,430

900 10,500 12,782

7.000

0.930

4.250 1.550

0.830 2.000 2.790

1.800 4.200 2.700



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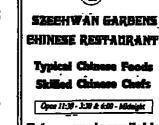
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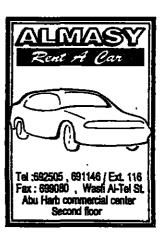
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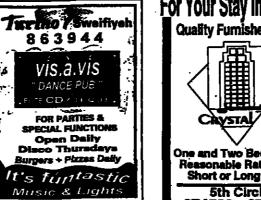
opposite IRAQ EMBASSY TEL.: 654205

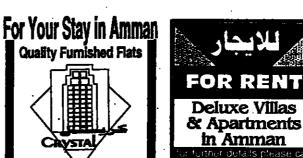




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Jordan Soccer League

SAI Hussein regain lead; AAI Jeel celebrate 1st win

ingrecial to the Jordan Times

Thu top four Syams exchanged standings purer the weekendes as the abcond round of the First recivision Soccer Cham-Conship kicked off with Al lotussein regaining the lead ach goal difference after a arenvincing 4-1 win over Al

MAI Wihdat dropped to aid cond place and Al Faisali he so moved down to fourth on ter their 0-0 and 1-1 draws traith Al Jazireh and Al ne bli. Meanwhile, Al amtha moved up to third ter a 3-0 win over Al

Al Jeel scored their first erin of the competition de-S Hating Shabab Al Hussein pee-1 and Al Qadissieh thored an important 2-1 pectory over Kufrsoum and wided a vital two points to we eir standings as they try and move away from the last orur threatened with re-

Al Hussein's 4-1 victory irther improved their oring average, and gave em the lead for now atop e prestigious group. Aref Hussein stunned Al

sarmel when he opened coring for Al Hussein in re first minute. However, Karmel equalised by ruleir top scorer Nizar cstnamekh in the 20th mi-

Al Hussein's scoring pree started early in the cond half when Mazen ocnbar added the second Toal from a header in the es2nd minute. Four minutes guter Aref Hussein scored is second and his team's ird goal which made Al Ocarmel retreat to defensive ositions. Nevertheless, I_d nbar managed another Td sal in the 81st minute to That his team's victory. agl Al Wihdat dropped to agr-cond place after a sur-tl a ising 0-0 draw with 5th 522 aced Al Jazireh. It was

eaten team of the cometition. S Al Faisali's draw with Al g this might also cost the Little holder dearly, as they

Sthe fourth draw for Al nt ihdet who otherwise ni ight have taken a clear

ostead atop the standings as

iey remained the only un-

struggle to advance their standing and improve their surprisingly inconsistent form this season.

After finishing the first round in third place. Al Faisali cannot afford to lose any points and must start scoring some wins to raise their points if they wish to retain their third consecutive

Jiryes Tadros scored Al Faisali's only goal against Al Ahli in the 35th minute as his teammates Mohammad Rajab, Mohammad Mahadin and Ja'far Hammad lost definite scoring

Al Ahli's Khalil Fataftah scored the vital equaliser for his team who were content with the draw and thus remained in sixth place.

Al Arabi's loss to Al Ramtha further worsened their situation as they finished the first round

among the last four.

Al Ramtha, who had beaten Al Arabi 1-0 in the Jordan Cup semifinal last week, proved they were the better and moved to third place after their 3-0 win.

Mansour Azaizeh opened scoring in the 35th minute. Mohammad Alawneh lost the most definite chance to equalise for Al Arabi, while teammate Saher Hijawi's powerful shot was blocked by the goalpost.

Al Ramtha scored their two other goals by Farid Shanaineh in the 80th minute and Salim Diyabat in the final minute.

Meanwhile, last-placed Al Jeel celebrated their first win of the competition when they upset 10thplaced Shabab Al Hussein

Although the win is not likely to help Al Jeel in avoiding relegation, Sha-bab Al Hussein's chances of staying in the first divi-sion will definitely be burt as they are unable to improve their standing.

Shabab Al Hussein's top scorer Maher Sarsour scored his team's only goal in the first minute of the match, only to be stunned by an equalising goal by Al Jeel's Zakariya Al Shibel six minutes later.

Shabab Al Hussein were the better team and had more chances throughout the match. They were therefore upset when their opponents netted their second goal in the 87th minute to clinch their first

Al Qadissieh scored their third win of the competition and added an important two points to their standings when they over-

came Kufrsoum 2-1. Al Qadissieh, who were a top five team last year, disappointed their fans when they languished in 9th place for most of the competition before moving up to eighth in the final week of the first round. Their win will therefore

raise their morale as they seek to move away from the grim last four. Kufrsoum, a newcomer to the division whose im-

pressive results at first enabled them to remain in a halfway position, were the first to score by striker Islam Diyabat in the 13th minute.

Al Qadissieh equalised late in the 51st minute and added their winning goal in the final five minutes.

Standings after 12th week

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Hussein	12	9	2	1	34	11	20
Wihdat	12	8	4	_	14	3	20
Ramtha	12	7 -	"4	· 1	14 22	ີ 5	18
Faisali	12	6	5	1.	22	7	17
Jazireh	12	7	2	3	16	8	16
Ahli	12	4	4	4	14	15	12
Kufrsoum	12	5	1	6	20	23	11
Qadissieh	12	3	4	5	14	19	10
Ārabi	12	3	2	7	13	25	8
Shabab Al Hussein	12	1	3	8	16	28	5
Karmel	12	1	2	9	9	30	4
Jeel	12	1	1	10	8	28	3

gyria, Iraq escape world bans

FPE ALA LUMPUR (R) — This and Iraq have escaped tball after allegations that fielded over-age players ne Asian under-19 chamnships in October in

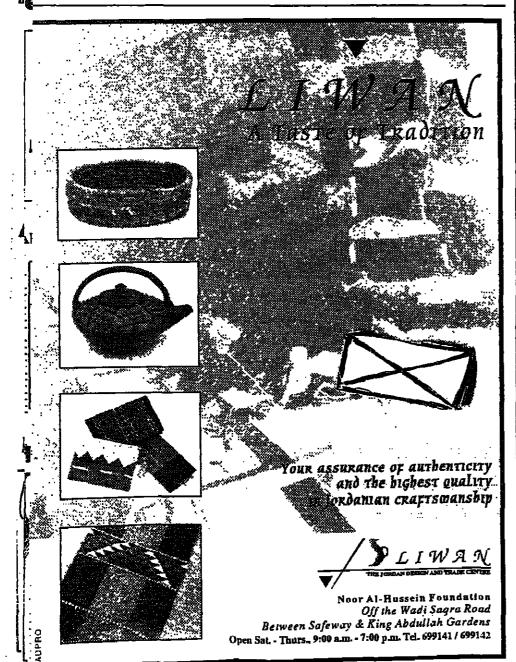
yria, who won the tourna-_nt, are now also free to -e their place in next year's orld Under-20 Cham-pionships in Nigeria. The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) declared an amnesty Saturday against alleged age-cheats after Xray evidence was ruled inconclusive by world ruling body

FIFA. The X-rays, which determine age by analysing bone growth, strongly suggested both teams fielded over-age

players in Jakarta, according to the AFC. "We have been advised by FIFA that the X-ray evidence

we compiled was not suitable to be used as a foundation of guilt," said AFC generalecretary Peter Velappan. He added that the amnesty

would be "absolutely the last chance" for Asian football



Agassi fined \$6,000 for Grand Slam outburst

MUNICH (Agencies) — World No. 2 Andre Agassi was fined \$6,000 Saturday for firing a volley of obscenities at the umpire during his losing quarter-final at the Grand Slam Cup.

Agassi swore in the first set of his match against Sweden's

of his match against Sweden's Magnus Larsson after a line call went against him, earning a warning for an audible

He then swore again in frustration and was penalised a point which cost him his service game and set a discouraged Agassi on his way to losing the match.

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) referee fined him \$2,000 for the audible obscenity, and a further \$4,000 for verbal abuse.

Matters could have been worse. Agassi said he had in fact sworn aloud a third time, but the umpire chose to disregard the offence for which the automatic penalty would have been a default and presumably an even stiffer fine. There was also a \$1,000 fine for Goran Ivanisevic for

an ill-tempered outburst at

the umpire during his win-

ning quarter-final against Boris Becker. Ironically, Ivanisevic is technically suspended for two months by the Association of Tennis Professionals for accumulating more than \$10,000 of fines this year but is playing in Munich be-cause the ITF runs the event and has chosen to overlook



World No. 2 Andre Agassi

the suspension. Aside from ruffled pride. the fines will not significantly dent either player's earnings

Agassi took home \$500,000 including a \$250,000 bonus for being U.S. Open champion, and Ivanisevic was assured of \$425,000 even if he lost the semifinal against world number one Pete Sam-

Pau Orthez' Frederic Guinot (centre) scores for his team during

Real Madrid, Olympiakos lead

European basketball standings

Real Madrid (Spain)

Panathinaikos (Greece)

CSKA Moscow (Russia)

Paok Salonika (Greece)

Benfica (Portugai)

Olympiakos (Greece) Barcelona (Spain)

Bologna (Italy) Istanbul (Turkey)

Limoges (France)

Cibona Zagreb (Croatia)

Bayer Leverkusen (Germany

Joventut Badalona (Spain)

Olimpija Ljubljana (Slovenia) Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel)

Pesaro (Italy)

STANDINGS

Group A

Group B

against Birex Verona (AFP photo)

LONDON (R) — Italy's Pesaro joined Real Madrid at

the top of Group A with a

narrow 86-85 victory in Mos-

cow while in an all-Greek

clash Panathinaikos beat

Paok Salonika 72-63, in the

men's European Champion

Clubs' Cup semifinal basket-

In Group B in Leverkusen,

Bayer Leverkusen of Ger-

many beat Joventut Badalo-

Leading scorers: Bayer Leverkusen — Abdul Deem 25, Thomas

Joventut Badalona -

Rafael Jofresa 14, Ebeling

In Barcelona; Cibona Zag-

reb of Croatia beat Barcelona of Spain 74-70.

na of Spain 53 (37-20).

Garrick 17.

Agassi admitted he was ruled by his emotions. 'Of course it's better if you

don't swear. But it's human and sometimes it's impossible to do anything else. 'He gave me a warning for

an obscenity. I mean, obscenity is going on a lot. And I just think that a lot of times these guys don't make the right call because they are looking straight at your mouth and they are, in a sense, waiting for you to say something.

He also argued that, given the chances of abusive language being picked up by television, courtside microphones should be removed.

"If they don't want the people to hear it on the TV. then get the microphones off "The reality is, it (swear-ing) happens, and because it happens. I don't think there should be as many microphones on the court."

On the next point, Agassi's service return just missed the umpire's chair. The public laughed and Agassi apolo-

gised to the umpire. "I did not do it on purpose. It was a really bad shot, really bad," he said. No one was fooled, but the umpire appeared to accept Agassi's explanation.

Agassi fought back in style in the second set, making superb returns despite Larsson's lightning serves.

Larsson, world-ranked 19th, won 6-3, 1-6, 6-0 to line up a semi-final with another American, Todd Martin, who beat French Open champion Sergi Bruguera 6-4, 7-6 (7-5).

By contrast, Martin's match against Bruguera was a placid affair, with both players maintaining their service game in the first set until the American led 5-4.

The Spaniard promptly cracked under the pressure of the \$6 million tournament. handing his opponent both set point and the set with two consecutive double faults.

The second set went a tiebreak, with the American's sheer power breaking the deadlock between the two

Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic and world number one Pete Sampras will meet in the other semi-final.

GOREN BRIDGE

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KILL THE ENTRY

either vulnerable West daala

he buiding:
Fest North East South
3 3 4 4
Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead King of

A long sust in dummy can cause anxiety in the heart of even the stoutest defender. One way to try to

might even be neutralized when, there are no aide entries.

After North's preemptive jump overcall, South elected to compete at the five-level despite the adage

points. But then there would have tract would probably areak home Suppose West leads the king of hearts and continues the suit for declarer to ruff. A low spade is led, West follows low and dummy's ten was Declarer can no longer be

After returning to hand with the After returning to hand with the king of clubs, declarer forces not the are of trumps. Thanks to a double-ton king of diamonds onside, declarer will be able to get two club discards on the diamonds.

When this hand was played in a team match, Dr. George Rosenkrauz of Mexico City held the West hand. The play to the first two.

arous of Mexico City heat the washind. The play to the first two tricks went as described, but when declarer led a low trump. West flaw up with the ace and shifted to a low diamond!

Declarer's fate was sealed. With was no longer any way to reach dummy. After successfully finesting dummy. After successfully fine the ten of diamonds, declarer able to discard one club on the ace, but even though the king dropped, there was no second discard. West was able to ruff the third dian

Hotel Inter. Continental Jordan Santa all the way from Finland

FOR THE first time of the History of Christmas testivities and on the invitation of Hotel Inter.Continental Jordan, British Airways, Al Ahlia Abella SuperStores and Pepsi, Santa Claus is visiting Jordan to take part of the Holy season festivi-

Arriving on December 12th on British Airways London-Amman route all the way from the Town of Royamiemi which lies on the Arctic circle in Finland.

Every year, children from all over Scandinavia and indeed much further afield travel to see him and his reindeers to tell him their Christmas wishes and ask him to personally sign Christmas cards for their loved ones.

Santa, and during his stay in Amman will join the children of Jordan celebrating Christmas, he will visit Charity organisations and will take part of the children Christmas party and perform the switching on of the Christmas tree on

December 15th in the aftemoon at Hotel Inter-.Continental Jordan. in the afternoon of Wednesday the 14th of December, he will have an appearance at Al Ahlia Abella Super

Your child will have the opportunity to present a card for Santa to take with him to the children of Scandinavia from the children of Jordan, and have the chance to win a mother and child return ticket Amman-London-Amman on British Airways and a four nights stay at a Hotel Inter.Continental London.

There will be opportunities to have souvening photographs taken of your child posing along side the famous man with the characteristic long white beard and flowing red robes.

This activity is one of many Hotel Inter Continental plans in collaboration of local companies and societies in his efforts to cement his relationship with the local communities.

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Jordanian driving licence and car is a plus

I did not do it on purpose and he said No one was orded, but the umpire that and to accept Abasely \$philips (non-Against fought back in style

a the second set, making aparts returns despite Larson a hightning serves Larvan, world-ranked oth, world is 1 to to to line at a semi-final with another American, foold Martin who

scal Lench Open champion erei Bineneta 64, 261 By contrast Martin's match against Bringueta was a should attent, with both playits manufaming their service same a de first set mad the

American led Sa The Spannard promptly Backed under the pressure of the 36 million tournament. handing his opponent both wit point and the set with two consecutive double taulte

the second set went a ne-Meak, with the American's sheer power breaking the deadlock between the two

Croatics Coran by miseveand world number one Pete Sampras will meet in the other wan final

RIDGE

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finental Jordan y from Finland

Sports

Jordan Handball Championship 2nd leg of competition kicks off with vital win for Hussein Irbid

By Roufan Nahhas Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN - The second leg of the Jordan handball championship kicked off Friday at the Al Hassan Sport City in Irbid with a striking win for the Al Hussein-Irbid 32-27 against Amman while Al Abli upset Yarmouk Al Shouneh

Al Hussein captured the win over Amman who attended with only 7 players and no substitute. Amman took the lead in the first half 16-14.

Al Hussein led the second half leaving Amman's defence in chaos to lead for the first time 25-24. Amman played the rest of the match with five players after the referee sent out Ahmad Gaboun.

Al Hussein took advantage of the situation and ended the match 32-27. Al Ahli 30, Yarmouk Al Shouneh 25: Al Ahli played in a very organised way depending on the wings in getting through Al Shouneh's defence to end

the first half 15-12. Al Shouneh tried to stop Al Ahli's attacks but to no avail. Al Ahli's goal keeper Ma'moun Abdul Hameed prevented his opponents from altering the result and gave his team a push to create more chances and end the match with an important win.

Eight teams are participating in the championship. Here is a look at the first leg results.

Al Arabi are in the lead with 12 points. They surprised all the other teams after good preparations and results in the Um Al

NEW YORK (AP) - Could

itibe? The Los Angeles Clip-

pers on a roll?
After all, it took them 17

games to get their first "vic-

tory, and even that win -

against the struggling Mil-

waukee Bucks — required a

desperation jumper by Pooh

But on Friday night, the

We have a lot more confi-

ambushed the Lakers, beat-

dence now," said Loy Vaught, who had 19 points

and 15 rebounds. "We feel

like we can beat any team in

the league, and we felt that

way before we even won a

Even if it was just across

The Clippes started fast,

while Pooh Richardson had

20 points and 10 assists for

Magic 110, Heat 96: Orlando

routed Miami for the second time this season, building a

20-point lead in nine minutes and coasting past Miami. Shaquille O'Neal led the Magic with 25 points. Anfer-

nee Hardaway added 24

points, including five 3-

Cavaliers 96, Celtics 89: John Williams scored a season-high 20 points to lead Cleve-

The visiting Cavaliers snapped a three-game losing streak and won their third

straight game in the Boston

land over Boston.

ing them 109-84.

State 107.

the Clippers.

Maarek Championship in Iraq. They are therefore fighting for the crown with Al Ahli, the title holders. Al Ahli, came second with 10 points but had unstable performance. Players'

over confidence gave the team a weak start.

Al Salt, led by their coach Karim Hadi, reached third place with 6 points a good position for a team who lacked experience and

heading for a new start. Yarmouk Al Shouneh have 5 points. They won two matches, while losing three to finish fourth.

Amman who came second last year, appeared as a weak, unstable team in this year's championship and finished fifth. The reasons for their poor performance are lack of practice and the departure of coach Talal Abed Al Kareem who left the team in a chaos.

Al Hussein, with a new coach, need a lot of time and practice to reach the level of the other teams as this team consists of a number of good players with high ambitions.

Al Orthodoxi are a team lacking the experience which they hoped to get from our ex-national coach Nabil Shamroukh who recruited young faces in an

attempt to keep the team among the top group.
Al Bareha withdrew from the championship and the Jordan Handball Fed-

eration (JHF) accepted their decision. In a meeting headed by Dr. Sari Hamdan the JHF announced the following

According to paragraph 3 article 5 of the penalties a decision was made to sus-pend Bareha's goalkeeper Mohammad Sharfat 12 consecutive matches .

To bar Bareha's Khaled Sabaheen from attending matches for 2 years. - To accept the team's decision to withdraw because of financial problems

and to cancel all its results. A round up of some statistics of the First Leg

Penalties given 115 to all the participating teams dis-tributed as follows: Arabi 12, Ahli 14, Salt 17, Amman 17, Hussein 16, Y. Shouneh 14, Orthodoxi 14 and Bareha 11.

Jihad Qtaishat from Al Salt scored 74 goals to take first place as top scorer. Al Orthodoxi's Modar Abed Kareem came second with 64 goals and Mouafaq Fateh Allah/Arabi and

Mohammad Taha/Salt with

60 goals came third. Standings after 1st leg

Teams	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Arabi	6			187	140	12
Ahli	5		1	214	150	16
Salt	3		3	171	171	6
Y. Shouneh	2	1	3	168	190	5
Amman	2	_	4	160	174	3
Hussein	1	1	4	160	174	3
Orthodoxi	1	_	5	157	203	2

Clippers ambush L.A. Lakers the Indiana Pacers defeated ing. Bulls 117, Pistons 96: B.J. the Philadelphia 76ers for their fourth straight victory. Jeff Malone had 17 points for Philadelphia, giving him a career total of 17,015 points.

NBA player to go over 17,000 points. Hawks 89, Knicks 85: Mookie Blaylock's 3-pointer sore left foot. broke a tie with 39 seconds

Malone became the 47th

remaining as Atlanta snapped New York's three-game winning streak. Blaylock's basket gave the Hawks an 86-83 lead, and Grant long stretched it to 88-83 on two free throws with just under 25 seconds remain-

Armstrong scored a seasonhigh 22 points as the Chicago Bulls routed the Detroit Pistons, who were without their two leading scorers.

Joe Dumaras missed the gave with bronchitis, while Grant Hill had the flu and a Scottie Pippen had 19 for

Chicago, and Bill Wennington added 16 points and nine rebounds off the bench. Lindsey Hunter and Oliver Miller led the Pistons with 18 points apiece, but injuries prevented both from finished the game.





1994's top sports stories

Brazil's World Cup triumph voted No. 1

LONDON (AP) — In triumph and tragedy, 1994 was the year of Brazil in international sports.
In a worldwide poll of

Associated Press subscribers, Brazil accounted for the top two sports stories of the year. Brazil's World Cup soccer victory in the United States was voted the No. 1 story, followed closely by the death of Brazilian Formula One

driver Ayrton Senna. George Foreman's heavyweight championship, Diego Maradona's drug scandal and the slaying of Colombian soccer star Andres Escobar were the other top vote-getters.

News organisations in more than 30 countries in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Oceania, Africa and South America took part in the survey. They listed their choice of the top 10 stories, and points were awarded on an inverse scale — ranging from 10 points for first place to one point for 10th. No surprisingly, four stor-

ies connected to the World Cup made the top six. Brazil's record fourth World Cup championship decided in a history-making penalty shootout against Italy

in the final received 15 first-

place votes and garnered a

total of 323 points. Running a close second with 305 points, including 13 first-place votes, was Senna's death. The three-time Formula One champion was killed in a crash at the San Marino Grand Prix May 1, capping a horrific weekend in which Austrian driver Roland Ratzenberger also died at the wheel.

Tied for third place with 201 points were Foreman's knocout of Michael Moorer to become world

Brazil's Romario (centre) chutches the World Cup as teammates Dunga (right) and Ronaldo walk around the

pitch after defeating Italy 3-2 in the final (AFP photo) heavyweight champion at the improbable age of 45 - 20 years after he lost the title points. and Maradona's ban for a

positive drug test at the World Cup. World Cup stories took the next two spots: The shooting death of Escobar in Medellin following his own-goal in Colombia's 2-1 loss to the United States (168), and the

huge success of the cup in the

soccer-apathetic United

States (108).

China's overwhelming domination of the World Swimming Championships and Asians Games — and the subsequent spate of positive drug tests by Chinese athletes with 65. - was seventh with 96

The Tonya Harding-Nancy Kerrigan saga, which dominated U.S. media attention before and during the Lillehammer Olympics, also attracted substantial international interest as it placed eighth with 79 points.

Spanish cyclist Miguel Indurain's fourth consecutive Tour de France victory was ninth with 67 points, while the exploits of West Indian cricket Batsman Brian Lara - he set a world record test score of 375 against England - rounded out the top 10 The retirement of tennis

great Martina Navratilova, who reached the championship match in her final appearance at Wimbledon, was 11th with 60 points.

The labour strike which wiped out the U.S. baseball season and locked out the North American Ice Hockey League was 12th with 53 points, two points ahead of German driver Michael Schumacher edging out Damon Hill for the Formula One

There was a tie for 14th with 44 points between Lerov Burrell's World record of 9.86 seconds in the 100 metres and soccer giant AC Milan's Italian and European

Cup triumphs. Rounding out the top 20 were: The Lillehammer Olympics and the domination of host Norway (33 points); teenage tennis star Jennifer Capriati's arrest on marijuana possession charges (32): Norwegian speedskater Johan Olav Koss's haul of three Olympic gold medals and three world records (31); Austrian skier Ulrike Maier's death in a downbill crash (27); and Nick Price's domination of men's golf with victories at the British Open and U.S. PGA Championship.

downhill races Lindh sweep Americans Street,

LAKE LOUISE, Canada (AFP) — Olympic silver medallist Picabo Street of the United States flashed to her first World Cup victory Fri-day, easily winning the first of two downhills scheduled

here this weekend. Her compatriot Hilary Lindh was second with Germany's Katja Seizinger third. Street completed the 2,639-metre course in a blistering 1 min 40.40 seconds, well ahead of Lindh who clocked 1:41.16; Seizinger was timed at 1:41.33. The course was described

by racers as fast — although Olympic champion Seizinger

said the new snow that had fallen overnight caused problems for her.

The weather was just about perfect for the race in which there were 64 starters. The temperature was just below zero and the sun was shining

After just two training runs

 cut down because of techsame snow conditions as nical problems and the need Street. to squeeze in an additional downhill race — Street started from 13th position,

number. Seizinger (starting from

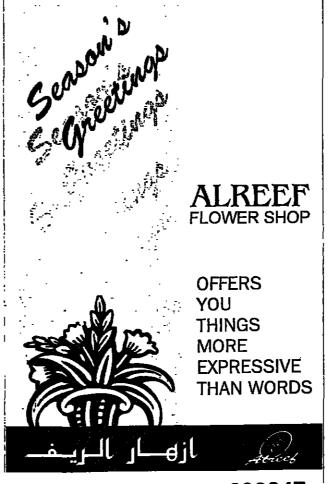
Early favourite Heidi Zeller-Baehler of Switzerland chose to start from the

14th position) and Lindh (16th) enjoyed basically the

but it proved to be her lucky 30th spot, gambling that the course would be faster. But the gamble failed with the course slowing down drama-tically and she finished 15th.

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Dominique Wilkins led Boston with 27 points, 14 in	$\bigcirc 1$		000047	0	INTERNATIONAL	RDITICH AIDWAYS
the first quarter.	10000X911288AMMAN	JABAL AMMAN - 4th C	IRCLE Tel. 699847			DKITISH AIKWAIS
Pacers 94, 76ers 88: Derrick	1 1 1 1 1 ORDAN		·		TRADERO®	The world's favourite airline
Mckey scored 15 points and	i 6 6 8 2 9			1		# ·
Dale Davis had 14 points and O F F X X		•				
a season-high 18 rebounds as					······································	 :

Time 10:00 a.m.

1	Cinema Tel.: 634144 PHILADELPHIA	Cinema Tel.: 699238	Cinema Tel.: 677420	Tel.: 618274 - 618275 AMMOUN THEATRE	Tel.: 675571 Nabil Al Mashini Theatre
	Robert Redford & Demi Moore — in Indecent Proposal Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Full Impact Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD "1" The Age of Innocence Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" Kim Basinger — in GETAWAY	very soon Musa Hijazin (Suma'h) in political satire HiCitizen CHILDREN'S PLAY Water is A Blessing From Heaven	Presents Abu Awwad in the social comedy Punctured Bag The theatre is closed on Mondays Tickets are available ali

Shows: 3:15, 5:00 p.m. only

EU defines strategy for integrating eastern Europe

ESSEN, Germany (AFP) - 1 for membership, German The European Union's final summit as a 12-nation body closed here on Saturday with EU leaders setting out a strategy to open its doors to at least 10 former communist states in eastern Europe.

Heads of state and government_from six of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia were present as their EU counterparts formally endorsed a commission strategy designed to help them prepare for membership through a combination of aid, opening of markets and advice on adapting legislation to comply with EU

"It is an historic moment," said Czech Prime Minister Vaclay Klaus, "I hope both parts of Europe take this as a message that the EU is ready to open its doors to the east." Although the EU has pledged to support the east-

SANAA (AFP) — Saudi and

Yemeni soldiers have clashed

on their border leaving

casualties on both sides,

Yemeni military officials

said, on Saturday, reporting

that tension remained high in

the area.
"Violent clashes Tuesday

and Wednesday opposed

Saudi and Yemeni units sta-

tioned on the joint border in

the north of the province of

Sadah," in northwest Ye-

men, an official told AFP,

Three Yemenis were

wounded and there were "Saudi losses," he said with-

out specifying.
The "fighting allowed

AMMAN - On the eve of

the official opening of the Israeli embassy in Amman

the Islamic Action Front

nians to boycott the embassy,

to refrain from applying for

boycott all its activities.

visas from the mission and to

Israeli embassy here will

conspiracies on our culture,

our mosques, our Koran, our

schools, our morals and our

national economy," the IAF

said in a statement Saturday.

Jordanians to unify ranks to

"isolate this embassy so that

it would find itself totally

outcast within an environ-

ment that rejects its existence

so that the enemy would real-

ise that official normalisation

of relations can by no means

subjugate our people's will."

The statement recalled the

peace treaty between Egypt

and Israel saying it offered

the best guide for Jordan because the Egyptian people

"rejected the presence of the

The statement urged

We are sure that the

(IAF) Saturday prged Jorda-

asking not to be named.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl warned it was up to them to meet the challenge of transforming their former command economies to make them compatible with the rules of the EU single mar-

"It is important that we don't raise false expectations," Mr. Kohl said. "These countries have to carry most of the weight of moving closer to us on their

Mr. Klaus said his country, which is seen as a leading candidate for early membership, was ready for the challenge.

"We are ready to pay the costs and we hope to receive the benefits."

Asked if he thought EU membership was possible for the Czechs by the year 2000, he replied: "You mean that

Hungarian Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs said 2000 ern Europeans in preparing was an "ambitious but not

clashed with Saudi troops

Sanaa's forces to recover the

regions where the Saudis had

put up observation posts and

Yemen accused its neigh-

bour on Wednesday of put-

ting up observation posts and

building roads "deep into Yemeni territory in the pro-

vinces of Sadah and Mahra."

on its northwest and north-

east border with Saudi Ara-

But Riyadh denied the

accusations saying the work

had been carried out on Saudi soil and added it was

ready to set up a joint inquiry

commission "to shed light on

the situation on the ground."

Jews" and boycotted their

embassy as alien with no

place amongst the Arab

Describing the raising of the Israeli flag on the embas-

sy in Amman Sunday as a black day, the statement said

the event represented a de-

parture from the nation's

principled stands and a viola-

The statement praised the

Palestinian intifada and said

that Arabs and Muslims con-

tinue to hold on to their

rights, "despite the Zionists'

arrogance and the backing

Israel gets from the United

States and the Western na-

Also Saturday, eight poli-

tical parties including the

IAF issued a separate state-

ment expressing regret over a

government ban on a march

they planned, for Sunday

from the Interior Ministry

Circle to the Foreign Minis-

try.
The statement said that the

Jordanian people's will.

IAF calls for boycott of Israeli mission

population.

The two countries are in

Yemen says its forces

built roads."

"Today was a breakthrough. Now it is up to us to make ourselves compatible with the EU."

The six states represented at Essen have all signed associating Europe agreements with the EU but the EU leaders made it clear they wanted to see four more countries drawn into the enlargement process.

The summit mandated the commission to negotiate Europe agreements with the three Baltic states, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and, subject to the resolution of a dispute with Italy, the former Yugoslav republic of As a first stage in the Essen

strategy for eastern expansion, the summit called on the commission to draw up a detailed white paper laying out the steps the countries will have to take to adapt their former command economies to the rules of the

dispute over the southern

Saudi provinces of Najran,

Jizan and Asir, which have

been under Saudi control

since the Taef accord of 193 ,

and adjoin Yemen's northern

An official close to Ye-

men's presidency said Sanaa

prefers the diplomatic op-

tion and is in contact with the

Saudi authorities to defuse

Saudi Foreign Minister

the tension at the border.'

Saud Al Faisal is due to meet

his Yemeni counterpart Abdul Karim Al Iriyani on

the sidelines of the Organisa-

tion of the Islamic Confer-

ence (OIC) summit prepara-

tory meeting Saturday

eight parties had been plan-

ning to organise the march in

protest against the opening of the Israeli embassy, and a sit-in at the Foreign Ministry,

when they received clear

orders from the Amman gov-

The statement said the

eight parties regretted the

ban which they described as contrary to the rules of demo-

cracy, saying they preserve the right to deal with this

issue with legal and democra-

by the following parties: The Jordan Baath Socialist Party,

the IAF, the National Action

Front, the Jordanian Socialist

Democratic People's Party,

the Jordanian Communist

Party, the Jordanian Demo-

cratic Arab Party and the

Jordanian Democrataic Un-

Later on the day, a govern-

ment source told the Jordan

Times it was agreed that the

parties would hold a vigil

protest in front of the prime

ministry on Sunday.

The statement was signed

tic means.

ionists Party.

ernor banning the march.



The heads of state and government pose for the family picture on the first day of the European Union Summit held at Essen

Europeans chart long-term Euro-Mediterranean strategy

By Ayman Al Safadi in Essen

THE EUROPEAN Council Saturday adopted what president of the European Commission Jack Delors called "a very difficult and very ambitious Mediterranean" policy that will have the long-term goal of creating a Euro-Mediterranean free trade area.

Addressing a joint press conference with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the end of a two-day European summit, Mr. Delors stressed the importance of strengthening European-Mediterranean relations, noting that the interest of the continent in the Mediterranean was reflected in the fact that the EU was the largest donor to the Mideast peace pro-

In reference to the limited visibility that the European role in the peace process has in comparison to the high profile of American involvement, the retiring commission president said: "Don't believe in appearances. We are the largest contributor."

Mr. Delors said that ter" of the Casablanca economic summit even though many perceived it as an American and Israeli organised event.

Similar emphasis on the European role in the Mediterranean was put by Mr. Kohl who stressed the interconnectedness between the stability and security of the two regions. Mr. Kohl said the Euro-

pean Mediterranean strategy was an important item on the agenda of the summit, adding that Europe wanted to develop relations with the region to promote security, stability

and growth.
The summit has agreed to hold a Eŭro-

Mediterranean conference in the second half of 1995 under the Spanish presidency with the purpose of exploring means of increasing cooperation between the two areas. But the meeting fell short of agreeing on any specific short term economic aid to the region.

In harmony with what sources said was a British position, the summit did commit specified amounts of aid at this point.

Figuring high on the agenda of the summit, which marks the end of the German presidency of the European Union (EU), is relations with Eastern and Central European countries which received a strong signal that they are welcome to eventually join the union.

Leaders of six such countries were hosted to lunch by the 12 leaders of the EU yesterday where they received the message that relations between their countries and Europe will be developed under a policy that will finally integrate fledged members (see story

this page). But Mr. Kohl was careful to emphasise at the press conference that a great deal of work is required before Eastern European countries were admitted into the union and that the "associated partners" would have to carry the major share of the burden in qualifying for entering the Western European club whose membership will increase from 12 to 15 next year when Finland, Sweden and Austria become official part-

ners in the EU. Mr. Kohl said that each

east and central European country will be judged on its own merit and that the EU's policy towards east and central Europe did not presuppose accession for countries that do not even-

tually meet the criteria. In a statement that reflected the limitations of the EU's options in dealing with the conflict in Bosnia the European leaders made the traditional call for an end of hostilities in the Balkans and stressed the importance of solving the conflict through dialogue.

The statement condemned the "violation of the safe area of Bihac by the Bosnian Serbs" and urged them to withdraw from the

The European leaders warned of the "severe" consequences for the civilian population in Bosnia if the United Nations Protection Force was forced to

"UNPROFOR should continue its crucial mission of providing humanitarian assistance and saving human life," said the statement, urging Serbian forces to allow it freedom of movement so that it can fulfil its task.

The European leaders urged Serbian leaders to accept the peace plan prepared by the contact group for Bosnia as the basis for a settlement which provides a viable and reasonable solution for all parties.

The statement said that the territorial compromise could be adjusted later by mutual agreement between the parties, pointing out that constitutional arrangements that will preserve the integrity of Bosnia can be reached in the future. Sources said that French President Francois Mitter-

rand defended the Euro-

pean position against lifting the arms embargo on Bosnian Muslims during the summit's discussion of the conflict there and heavily criticised calls to lift it made by the Republican leadership in the U.S. Con-

The dominant issue on the agenda of the summit however was the economic situation in Europe and the unemployment problem from which most members of the union are suffering.

The summit adopted a white paper on economic growth presented by the European Commission and many observers here say the paper was adopted because it leaves it to the individual member states to implement its provisions.

The main message going out of (Essen) is one of realistic optimism," Mr. Kohl told a press confer-ence attended by hundreds

of journalists.
"At the end of 1994," he said, "there is no reason to lapse into Europessimism, pointing out what he called significant positive developments in the last few years.

We look to the future and the only way is to create the European house," said Mr. Kohl as he praised Mr. Delors who is expected to run for the French presidency when he retires from the top job at the EC "as the sole of this exercise.'

Not many observers here however shared Mr. Kohl's optimism on the future of 'the one European house' with Eurosceptics wondering what kind of Europe was the chancellor talking about with EU membership expected to expand beyond any possibility for a workable union.

Japan's crown princess marks 31st birthday

TOKYO (AP) — Palace watchers had thought Japan's Western-educated crown princess would bring a new, more open style to the conservative imperial household. But since retreating behind the palace walls last year after marrying the heir to the throne, Crown Princess Masako, who turned 31 Friday, has also stayed firmly behind the traditional royal veil. She celebrated her birthday Friday by sharing hunch with Crown Prince Naruhito, the palace said, after earlier denying requests for birthday interviews. Emperor Akihito and Prince Naruhito grant such pre-birthday audiences, but Princess Masako only released a statement through her royal handlers. "I would like to fully carry out all of my duties as the crown princess while helping the emper-or and empress, together with the crown prince," it said. The multilingual, Oxford and Harvard-educated daughter of a high-ranking diplomat spent two years in the Foreign Ministry. After the palace announced her engagement to Prince Naruhito almost two years ago, the Japanese media was affutter with speculation they might be the first truly accessible royal couple. But she has become the picture of the traditional, demure princess whose main duties are to bear children and follow her husband on official journeys. Princess Masako's performance in both of those tasks is a favourite topic in gossipy television shows and weekly magazines, which have conducted a close, but as yet unfulfilled, watch for signs of pregnancy. To make matters worse for Princess Masako, Princess Kiko, the wife of the crown prince's younger brother, is expecting her second child in January. If that baby is a boy — and thus a potential heir — the press-ure on Princess Masako wili

Bachelor senator to wed opposition colleague's widow

WASHINGTON (AFP) -Massachusetts Democrat John Kerry, regarded as one of the U.S. Senate's most eligible bachelors, will marry the widow of a former Republican colleague, the Boston Globe newspaper reported Friday. Sen. Kerry, 50, is the state's junior senator and recognised for championing liberal causes at home and abroad. His wifeto-be, Teresa Heinz, 56, is the widow of Pennsylvania Republican and millionaire John Heinz who died in a 1991 plane crash. She was estimated to have inherited \$600 million when her husband died. Kerry is also from a wealthy background.

'Work is good for your migraine'

PARIS (AFP) - Work is probably the best way of pre-

venting a migraine attack, according to research pub-lished Saturday in the British medical journal Lancet. Doctor Joseph Blau, of the British national Neurological and Neuro-Surgical Hospital in London, spoke to some 50 doctors for his research and concluded that "motivation, commitment to work and the correct use of medication," was the best means of combatting migraine attacks. The doctors, aged 26 to 72, were asked about their migraines, their time off work and the treatment they took. They had all suffered migraines over periods ranging from five to 58 years but 36 of them had taken a combined total of just 42 days off work in a total period of 828 years of professional life. Some 16 of them had never had a day off while another 14 had taken several days off. amounting to 444 days off work in 276 years working life. According to Dr. Blau, a few of the doctors commented that work suppressed their migraines but that once they had reached home they took to bed. This led him to believe that it was professional motivation that stop the migraines from happening. "We should recall that the migraine General Ulysses Grant was suffering lifted dramatically when he received news of the surrender of the southern forces in the American Civil War," Dr.

Blau added.

Intellectuals, politicians discuss Jordanian-Palestinian 'sensitivities'

By Nermeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian and Palestinian politicians and intellectuals yesterday opened two days of discussions on their relationship and most speakers underlined the inevitability of political unity between Jordan and any independent Palestinian entity.

At the seminar on the future of the Jordanian-Palestinian future relations, organised jointly by the World Affairs Council, the Jerusalem-based Arab Economists Association and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, speakers from both sides gingerly approached issues that many of them believe have hindered a "healthy" relationship between the Kingdom and the Palestinian leadership and people.

Despite the apparent consensus among most participants that a Jordanian-Palestinian unity was an inevitable outcome of the Middle East peace talks with Israel, both sides appeared determined on defining and resolving what at least one participant termed as "contentious perceptions" among the people from both sides before discussion of what the final formula for unity

would look like. Apart from the opening speech by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, delivered on his behalf by Senator Kamel Abu Jaber (see page 1), other papers and discussions centred primarily on the reasons behind the tense relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships and the impact of that tension on the relationship between the two peoples.

Premier Majali, who at the outset of his speech said that he did not wish to lessen the importance of the past, said the two sides need "creative thinking that would assess the relationship from its positive side so that a much brighter and promising future can

"I have come across those who think that Jordan's refusal to deal with the issue of a confederation is because of its refusal to accept an independent Palestinian entity. Such claims are false," Dr. Maiali said.

"Why should we start by defining the frame of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation? There are many aspects of the relationship that make this end the best solution and we may agree to that."

But Dr. Majali added. "to my understanding, a confederation means a centralised leadership from both governments, flags and national anthem and

each party administers its own internal affairs. Until now, this simplified structure of a confederation lacks one of the basic elements, Palestinian sovereignty over their land, in order to complete the executive, legislative and judicial structures," he

On that, many of the participants agreed with Dr. Majali: It was too early to define the parameters of the future before a Palestinian entity was established.

But very few agreed to leave the past behind, for even although the title of the seminar was "the future of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship", many of the speeches in the morning session of the first day appeared to try to address the "past," giving rise to sensitivities from

both sides. The first paper, "cooperation on the political level," was a "candid" portrayal of "the Palestinian point of view." The paper was presented by Bir Zeit political science professor Ziad Abu Amr.

Dr. Abu Amr did not fail to bring out some sensitivities from the Jordanian participants over how the Kingdom's past role in the West Bank was viewed by the Palestinians. "The Palestinian-

Jordanian relationship has

been based on a foundation of mistrust and suspicion. Dr. Abu Amr told participants, citing several political developments that led the Palestinians to suspect the intentions of Jordan towards Palestinians.

"This suspicion has continued to permeate the thinking of all Palestinian political factions until this day," Dr. Abu Amr added.

This perception among the Palestinians of Jordan's role in what was termed by Dr. Abu Amr as "burying the Palestinian issue," increased "the fears of the regime in Jordan and consolidated its perception that the Palestinian national movement wanted to remove it."

"Therefore the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship continued to be contradictory," he said.

In his 8-page paper Dr. Abu Amr detailed several political developments in the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship as well as the relationship of each with Israel. He concluded that both sides have to reach an understanding and agreement that would resolve their mutual concerns as well as address their mutual interests.

"Both sides have to realise that their strategic option lies primarily in establishing a strong relationship between them and both

have to be careful not to strategically calculate according to their independent agreements with Dr. Abu Amr

"The idea behind this seminar is to focus on the positive elements between the two sides to establish a strong relationship that could not be affected by either leadership," Lower House member and mem-ber of the World Affairs Council Abdullah Ensour

Dr. Ensour was responding to Dr. Abu Amr's assessment that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship was clouded by an atmosphere of suspicion and mistrust.

In response to Dr. Abu Amr's paper, Dr. Ensour said that it appeared to forewarn of failure of any attempts to improve relations between the two sides by "stressing the past and describing that past as if it was only based on negative aspects.

Sharif Fawaz Sharaf. who also took Dr. Abu Amr to task over this point countered that "we cannot move forward if we continue to look back with suspicion, or harbour any feelings of mistrust."

Sharif Fawaz also took offence at Dr. Abu Amr's. use of the "Hashemite regime" saying that it appeared to have "negative

"Negative terminology like 'maintaining the Hashemite regime' will only make the suspicion and differences continue between the two sides,

said Sharif Fawaz. Dr. Abu Amr responded by saying that he did not intend to use these connotations in a negative way but that the past must be confronted with honesty in order to move forward to a better future relationship. "This paper was in-

tended to show the Palestinian peoples' point of view and this is the reality. These perceptions do exist. Do we want to deal with the reality and address it properly or are we looking to use descriptive words without substance?" he

Bashir Barghouti, head of the Palestinian People's Party, formerly the Communist Party, said that for years both Palestinian and Jordanian politicians have failed to respect the "idiosyncracies of each par-

ty's politics."
"When we reach a situation where we recognise the idiosyncracies of each side's politics we can move to the more general politics which could bring about

unity," he said. Ghassan Khatib, a former Palestinian negotiator and professor at Bir Zeit University, said that the

apparent sensitivities of the participants to the different views should be seen in a

positive light. "The seminar is an opportunity to start a public debate on the sensitivity of the Jordanian

Palestinian relationship." "There is a f-eling of common interest on both sides that is not expressed on the official level. This could create public pressure on the leadership level," Mr. Khatib said. "It could provide an

agenda for official discussion when pinpointing the differences and potentials," Mr. Khatib told the Jordan Times.

Dr. Abu Amr told the Jordan Times that the Palestinian side in the seminar was keen on reaching a formula and understanding that would determine the future Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

"We both need each other in political, economic and social terms," Dr. Abn Amr said. "Societies on both sides have to play a positive role that could help in providing certain modalities to start a prac-

tical relationship." Eleven working papers from each side would be presented at the seminar covering the Jordanian and Palestinian views on issues ranging from political, economic and legal relations to environmental issues.

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